809 L.11

APPENDIX

TO THE

INDIA COURIER

EXTRAORDINARY.

CONTAINING

COPIES OF ALL THE PAPERS

LAID BEFORE THE

Honourable the Houſe of Commons,

By Mr. MORTON,

FROM THE

United Company of Merchants of England

TRADING TO THE

EAST INDIES,

RELATIVE TO

WARREN HASTINGS, Eſq.

LATE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF BENGAL, &c.

VOL. VI.

Printed in the Year M,DCC,LXXXVII.

EAST INDIES

INDIA COURIER

EXTRAORDINARY.

APPENDIX

TO

Mr. HASTINGS's Parliamentary Trial.

COPY of Conſultations and Correſpondence relative to Mr. Auriol's Agency, for ſupplying Rice, &c. to the other Preſidencies.

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, the 14th December 1780.

READ the following letter from Mr. Auriol.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

The intelligence received from Fort St. George of a preſent ſcarcity of all kinds of grain at that place, and the diſtreſs which General Sir Eyre Coote apprehends ſo numerous a Garriſon may ſuffer, if not relieved by timely ſupplies from hence, induce me to offer the following propoſals for providing them, as I have an opportunity at preſent of ſecuring a quantity of tonnage, which may ſoon be otherwiſe engaged; and it will afterwards be difficult if not impoſſible, to afford ample relief to that garriſon, on account of the reduced ſtate of the ſhipping of this port.

I will engage to deliver at Fort St. George, in the courſe of the preſent fair ſeaſon (excepting only againſt the capture of enemies, and the dangers of the ſeas) the following articles; viz.

50,000	Bags of good cargo rice, at Sa Rs	—	—	6	8	per bag, of 2 Br Md	
15,000	Mauds of wheat	—	—	7	12	Do	of Do
10,000	Ditto peaſe	—	—	7	8	Do	
12,000	Do beſt grain of different kinds		—	7	8	Do	
10,000	Do middling Do	—	—	7	—	Do	
1,000	Do tobacco	—	—	10	—	per Do	
500	Do Beetel	—	—	11	8		
1,000	Do Ghee	—	—	20	—		
1,000	Oil	—	—	14	4	per Do	
2,000	Sugar	—	—	18	8		

The

The payment to be made one third in advance, one third on approbation of the muſters, and the remainder on proof of delivering the ſeveral articles at Madras, or their actual loſs by either of the dangers excepted againſt.

The prices of ghee and ſugar appear rather high, but they are not objects of advantage, when the waſtage is conſidered; and I have only inſerted a ſmall quantity of each, becauſe they are not articles of neceſſary conſumption.

If my propoſals ſhould be approved, I requeſt that the Honourable Board will be pleaſed to direct their attorney to make out the engagements as ſoon as poſſible, that I may loſe no time in ſecuring the tonnage that will be required.

I beg leave to add, that if the Honourable Board ſhould prefer ſupplying the wants of the Preſidency of Fort St. George by agency, I will uſe my utmoſt endeavours to effect it to their ſatisfaction; that I will deliver my accounts upon honour, and expect only the uſual commiſſion for my trouble.

I am with the greateſt reſpect,

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

Fort William,
7th December 1780.

(Signed) J. P. AURIOL.

Agreed, That Mr. James Peter Auriol be permitted to provide by agency the articles mentioned in his propoſals, deliverable as ſoon as poſſible in any quantities of each that he may be able to procure, excepting the articles of tobacco, ghee, beetel, ſugar, and oil, theſe being neither ſo neceſſarily wanted as grain, nor ſo eaſy or convenient of tranſportation; and that he be allowed a commiſſion of 15 per cent.

Agreed alſo, That Mr. Auriol be appointed Agent of ſupplies to the other Preſidencies, and to the iſland of St. Helena, with the ſame commiſſion.

Ordered, That notice of this appointment be ſent to the Buxey, that he may not in future provide ſtores as uſual for the iſland of St. Helena.

EXTRACT of Letter from the Governor General and Council, to the Preſident and Council at Fort St. George.

We have this day taken further meaſures for the ſupply of your Preſidency with grain, and have appointed an agent to provide it in any quantity which he may be able to procure.

We are, &c.

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, 13th March 1781.

EXTRACT of Letter from the Preſident and Council of Fort St. George, to the Governor General and Council, dated 20th February 1781.

Mr. James Peter Auriol having acquainted us, that he had your directions for ſupplying the quantity of ſalt proviſions formerly indented for by us, we have ordered our garriſon ſtorekeeper to receive into his charge 35 tierces of Iriſh beef, and 35 tierces of pork, tendered to us by Mr. Auriol.

EXTRACT

EXTRACT of Bengal Secret Conſultations, 27th April 1781.

EXTRACT of Letter from the Preſident and Select Committee at Fort St. George, dated 1ſt April 1781.

10. There is every Appearance that we ſhallw be in the greateſt diſtreſs for grain, as all the uſual ſupplies from the ſouthward are cut off, and inſtead of receiving from thence, we are obliged to ſupply the army; alſo the ſettlement of Cuddalore, where a famine has actually commenced. At a moderate computation, about 15,000 bags per menſem are conſumed by the army and inhabitants of Cuddalore, and 60,000 at this ſettlement, therefore we ought to have full 4,50,000 bags of grain for a ſupply until September; but we are ſorry to ſay, that the quantity now in ſtore, including both the Company's rice, and all that is in the poſſeſſion of individuals, does not exceed 1,25,000 bags, according to the beſt information we can procure, and we cannot expect, at this late ſeaſon, above 40,000 more, however fortunate the veſſels may be in arriving here. This unexaggerated ſtate of our ſituation needs no comment, but will evince the neceſſity there is for our receiving ſpeedy ſupplies from you; and therefore we hope, that no conſideration whatſoever will induce you to permit the Neptune, Belmont, Rochfort, and Dartmouth, being employed in any other ſervice than in bringing money and grain to this ſettlement; we moſt earneſtly requeſt they may be diſpatched without delay. Captains Thompſon and Todd have promiſed, in a public letter to the Select Committee, to perform their part, if they have your permiſſion; and we have no doubt but Captains Scott and Gamage will ſhew an equal zeal for this moſt important ſervice.

11. We fear that the want of the 400 caſks of ſalt proviſions you contracted for, to be delivered here in this month, will be ſeverely felt by the army, and this Garriſon, as we have only 100 caſks now in ſtore.

EXTRACT of Bengal Secret Conſultations, the 27th April 1781.

EXTRACT of Letter from the Preſident and Select Committee at Fort St. George, dated 31ſt March 1781.

According to the report delivered in to us by our Garriſon Storekeeper, the rice provided by your agent, and conſigned to us, proves of a quality ſo ſuperior to the cargo rice generally imported here, that we think it proper to notice it particularly to you; but the rice received in conſequence of your engagement with Mr. Fergusſon turns out to be a very inferior kind of grain, though equal to the ſealed muſters.

EXTRACT of General Letter from Bengal, dated 30th April 1781.

Par. 45. We informed you in our laſt letter of the engagements into which we had entered for the ſupply of the Preſidency of Fort St George with grain. Theſe engagements having been fulfilled, and the Preſidency of Fort St. George ſtill continuing to look to us for relief from their urgent wants, not only of grain, but of every other article of proviſion, we have thought proper to appoint an agent for the expreſs purpoſe of ſupplying them; and as the intention of the appointment was moſt likely to be fulfilled by a liberal conſideration of it, we fixed the advantage to ariſe from it to the agent at a commiſſion of 15 per cent. on his diſburſements. Mr. Auriol, our Secretary, fills this office; and we have the pleaſure to acquaint you, that the letters which we have received from Fort St. George convey to us the higheſt commendation of his Supplies.—Mr. Auriol was at the ſame time generally appointed Agent of ſupplies to the other Preſidencies, and to the iſland of St. Helena.

EXTRACT of General Letter from Bombay, dated 27th May 1781.

Par. 74. We lately received from Bengal, by a country garb, a conſignment of 3,040 bags of rice, without any further advice than an official letter to our Secretary, encloſing the invoice. —On inſpecting the invoice, we could not but be ſtruck with the enormous amount of the charges, which amounted to near 7 rupees per bag; the freight alone was charged five rupees per bag, when we could have contracted for its delivery here, free of all riſque and charges, at rupees 5 3. But what appeared quite inexplicable to us, was a charge of a commiſſion of 15 per cent. to the agent, which commiſſion was not only charged on the prime coſt of the rice, but on the freight and all other charges.—It is the more incumbent upon us to remark theſe exceſſive charges, as we underſtand by private letters, the Governor General and Council have provided a large quantity of rice for Bombay on the ſame terms, in conſequence of which this Preſidency will ſtand charged with a heavy debt, in addition to our other ſupplies from Fort William; nor were our wants ſo preſſing, or ſtated ſo ſtrongly, as to require ſo expenſive a relief; which we have noticed to the Governor General and Council.

EXTRACT of Bengal Secret Conſultations, the 14th June 1781.

EXTRACT of Letter from the Preſident and Select Committee, dated 13th May 1781.

We cannot too warmly expreſs our thanks, for the relief you have ſo zealouſly afforded to the neceſſities of this Government, in ſupplying us with money and proviſions; and we feel the more indebted for your attention to our wants, when we reflect on the diſtreſs which, without theſe aids, we muſt inevitably have experienced, and of which we give ample proof of in aſſuring you that we yet ſtand in great need of your aſſiſtance.

Encloſed we tranſmit to you a liſt of ſuch articles of proviſions and ſtores as our further neceſſities demand, and which we hope you will be able to ſend us in the months of September and January; as we are concerned to inform you, that the ſituation of the Carnatic is ſuch as makes us fear our whole dependance for ſupplies of grain muſt be placed on Bengal, and the Northern Circars.

Ordered, That a copy of the 3d paragraph of the above letter, and of the indent of ſtores and proviſions accompanying it, be ſent to the attornies of the agent for ſupplies, with directions to comply with it as ſoon as tonnage can be procured for the ſundry articles therein ſpecified.

Ordered, that the ſeveral papers accompanying the letter from Fort St. George, above recorded, be entered after the conſultation.

EXTRACT of Letter to the Preſident and Select Committee at Fort St. George, 14th June 1781.

The diſtreſs of your Preſidency has been repreſented to us, in your letter of the 1ſt April, to be ſo urgent, that we feel the greateſt concern in the impoſſibility of our ſupplying your wants at this ſeaſon ſo amply as we wiſh, or as they require. You muſt well know, that no tonnage is to be procured here for the conveyance of ſuch ſupplies, on any conſideration, before the end of the next, or the beginning of the enſuing month; and the South Weſterly Monſoon has for ſome time prevailed ſo ſtrongly, that ſhips venturing to face it, muſt inevitably make very long paſſages to your coaſt, and are not likely to arrive there ſooner than if they were to from this river two months later.

We

We have given immediate orders for a proviſion of the ſtores deſired in the indent which accompanied your letter of the 13th ultimo; and that they be ſent as ſoon as tonnage can be procured for them.

Encloſed in the Letter from Fort St. George, dated 13th May.

An Indent of Stores and Proviſions for Fort St. George, to be provided at Bengal, and required to be at Madras in September 1781 and January 1782; viz.

Rice	2,00,000	two Md. bags
Wheat	2,000	ditto
Peaſe	1,000	ditto
Red gram, and dall	2,000	ditto
Salt proviſions	1,000	Tierces
Ghee	250	Candys
Chilees	100	ditto
Tamarinds	200	ditto
Ginger	20	ditto
Coriander ſeeds	40	ditto
Common ſeeds	30	ditto
Beetle nut	20	ditto
Rattan Baſkets	20,000	
Mats	20,000	
Lamp oil	10,000	Meaſures
Gingely ditto	10,000	ditto

(Signed) A. BRODIE,

Fort St. George,
14th May 1781.

Garriſon Storekeeper.

EXTRACT of Bengal Secret Conſultations, the 3d July, 1781.

EXTRACT of letter from the Preſident and Select Committee at Fort St. George, dated 4th June 1781.

Encloſed we tranſmit to you duplicate of our letter of 13th May, with its encloſures, together with a liſt of ſtores and proviſions. From a report made to us by a Committee of Civil Servants appointed to ſuperintend and controul the ſale of grain, we have the mortification to learn, that our preſent ſtock will not, even with the moſt rigid oeconomy, laſt above two months from this time: With ſo melancholy a proſpect before us, we cannot be too earneſt in ſoliciting every exertion in your power, to avert the dreadful calamity with which we are threatened. We entreat of you to be aſſured, we have not in the leaſt exaggerated the picture of our diſtreſs; and that, unleſs our wants are ſpeedily ſupplied, a very conſiderable part of the Colony muſt periſh by famine.

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, the 7th September 1781.

EXTRACT of Letter from the Preſident and Council at Bombay to the Governor General and Council, dated the 26th April 1781.

We have received your conſignment of rice by the Devonſhire Grab:

The charges upon this rice are ſo exceſſive high and unuſual to us, particularly the articles of freight and commiſſion, that they could not but attract our obſervation; and they engaged our

our attention the more ſtrongly, as we underſtand a large quantity is provided for this Preſidency upon the ſame terms. The rice, with the addition of the charges, ſtands the Company in upwards of 9 rupees a bag at Calcutta; and we have judged it incumbent on us to take notice ſo far of this expenſive ſupply, as this Preſidency will of courſe ſtand charged with a heavy debt on that account; and our wants were not ſo preſſing, as to require ſo expenſive a relief.

EXTRACT of Bengal Secret Conſultations, the 1ſt October 1781.

EXTRACT of Letter from the Preſident and Select Committee at Fort St. George, dated 8th September, 1781.

It affords us a ſenſible ſatisfaction, to acknowledge our having received every conſiderable aſſiſtance from you, both in money and proviſions; but we are much concerned to inform you, theſe aids are very inadequate to our neceſſities. Since the army arrived here from the Southward, on the 24th of July, to the 7th of September, we have furniſhed it from this garriſon 22,337 bags of rice, beſides doll, gram, &c. We continue to ſupply them at preſent with 750 bags per day; and our whole ſtore of rice now remaining is only 23,000 bags. In our treaſury there yet remains about 3,00,000 of pagodas; which, however, is not more than one half of the demands which immediately preſs upon us; and the indiſpenſable monthly charges are one lack of pagodas. The Nabob contributes nothing: No ſums whatever are received from the country; nor can any arrangement, ſuch as you mention in your replies to his requeſts, were he ever ſo zealous to help us, produce a ſupply to afford us any conſiderable relief, as long as the enemy is maſter of the country; and we do not ſee any proſpect to be relied on of his being ſoon driven out of it. Thus then you ſee we have nothing to ſave us, but extraordinary exertions on your part, in money and proviſions, or a ſpeedy peace, which we fear can ſcarcely be expected on very favourable terms.

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, the 15th October 1781.

EXTRACT of Letter from the Preſident and Council at Fort St. George, dated 23d September, 1781.

Agreeably to the advice contained in our letter of the 9th inſtant, we now diſpatch to you the ſhips Southampton and Groſvenor, in order that they may be returned to us at the proper ſeaſon, with cargoes of rice.

We have the pleaſure to acquaint you, that the ſhips Alfred and Count Bermſtoff, and the ſnow Speedwell, and Nelly, Free-Maſon, and Eleanora, have ſafely arrived here, and delivered the rice and proviſions laden on them for the uſe of this Preſidency.

Our Garriſon Storekeeper has given in to us the accompanying report of the biſcuit lately received from Bengal; and as we have found, upon examination, that it was as bad a quality as he has repreſented, we requeſt your attention to this circumſtance, that we may not in future be ſupplied with what is actually unſerviceable. We likewiſe beg you will forward to us an invoice of the rice conſigned to Bombay, and detained here, from the ſhip Free-maſon; alſo, an account of the ſalt proviſions by that veſſel, none having been yet received.

To Charles Freeman, Eſquire, Secretary.

Sir,

I herewith ſend you a ſample of the biſcuit lately imported on ſeveral veſſels, conſigned from the Honourable Governor General and Council to this Preſidency, for garriſon ſtore, which I requeſt you will lay before the Honourable Board as ſoon as convenient.

I think

I think it my duty to repreſent, that the whole of the biſcuit lately received from Calcutta is in the ſame decayed and unſerviceable ſtate as the ſample which accompanies this, and appears to me at this time ſcarce worthy of ſtore room.

I have further to beg, that you will acquaint his Lordſhip, &c. Gentlemen, that this article is not included in any of the ſtorekeeper's Indents for ſupplies of garriſon ſtores from Calcutta.

Incloſed I ſend you a memorandum of the veſſels, with their cargoes and coſt, which have arrived from Calcutta, ſince the 22d Auguſt laſt, with conſignments from the Honourable Governor General and Council to this Preſidency.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. BRODIE,

Garriſon Storekeeper.

Fort St. George,
22d September, 1781.

A true Copy.

(Signed) Charles Freeman.

Ordered, That the 2d and 3d paragraphs of the laſt of the above letters, with the incloſure alluded to in them, be referred to the Agent of Supplies.

The Agent for Supplies delivers in the following explanation of the cauſes of the badneſs of the biſcuit ſent to Fort St. George, and begs that it may be noticed in the letter to that Preſidency.

Honourable Sir and Sirs

In reply to the extract from the Fort St. George Letter, which you have been pleaſed to refer to me, I beg leave to acquaint you, that the biſcuit ſent to that Preſidency was prepared in part of an eſtimate of victualling ſtores required for the uſe of their garriſon, which you ordered me to comply with in December laſt; muſters of the firſt diſpatches were produced by my agents in Council, and highly approved of; as large a quantity as could be proportioned on the veſſels freighted to Madras in that ſeaſon was accordingly ſent, and received by them without any complaint. The remainder, together with 500 bags of about 30 ſeers each, brought back by the Bengal Merchant, which ſailed too late to perform the paſſage, and through ſtreſs of weather was obliged to return, formed the late conſignments; but though provided by the ſame muſters, and of equal quality with the firſt, was unavoidably detained here ſome months, and afterwards ſent away in the height of the rainy ſeaſon. The preſent ſtate of it, therefore, muſt be entirely owing to the decay which ſuch a periſhable article as biſcuit is expoſed to in this unfavourable climate; a proof of which is now before the Board, in a letter from the Contractor for garriſon ſtores.

I have the honour, &c.

(Signed) J. P. AURIOL,

Agent for Supplies to the other Preſidencies.

Fort William,
15th October, 1781.

EXTRACT of Letter from the Governor General and Council to the Preſident and Council at Fort St. George,

We have received two letters from you, by the Groſvenor and Southampton, both dated 23d ultimo.

We ſhall order theſe ſhips to be laden with grain for the uſe of your Preſidency, and diſpatch them to you agreeably to your requeſt, as ſoon as the ſeaſon may admit of it.

The biſcuit which has been conſigned to you was prepared ſome time ago, in compliance with an eſtimate formed at Madras by order of the Commander in Chief, and tranſmitted to us for that purpoſe, in a letter from him, of the 19th November laſt; part of it was diſpatched by the ſhips which ſailed in the laſt cold ſeaſon, but the whole could not then be ſent away for want of room, and 500 bags, laden in February on the Bengal Merchant, were brought back to us, as that veſſel, through ſtreſs of weather, could not accompliſh her paſſage. We are ſorry that the biſcuit was not in a better ſtate of preſervation; but as this is an article very ſoon ſubject to decay in this climate, we muſt attribute the preſent quality of it to that cauſe, and ſhall deſiſt from ſending you any more.

The invoices of ſalt proviſions conſigned to you by the Free-Maſon, and of rice laden on that ſhip by the Preſidency of Bombay, but detained by you at Madras, were diſpatched to you in duplicate by the Neptune, and we doubt not but you have received them before this time.

EXTRACT of Bengal Secret Conſultations, 22d October 1781.

Read the following Letter from Fort St. George.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

Amidſt the difficulties which involve this ſettlement, it is ſome conſolation to us, that a Member of your Board has had ſo late an opportunity of judging, on the ſpot, of the evils which threaten or ſurround us, as well as all our efforts to avert them.

The enemy, beaten though not expelled, continues by his cavalry, to which we have no cavalry to oppoſe, to lay waſte the whole country.

We are thus deprived of proviſions, and of revenue ariſing from any part of the territories belonging to this Preſidency, except from the Circars. The expences of the civil eſtabliſhment are about 18,000 pagodas per month. The military expences, excluſive of the detachment ſent from Bengal under Colonel Pearſe, amount to about 2,00,000 pagodas monthly. The civil and military arrears exceed already 10 lacks of pagodas; to anſwer ſuch demands, there is now in the treaſury the ſum of about 1,50,000 pagodas, with little expectation of getting any conſiderable remittances from our ſubordinates for ſeveral months.

That the garriſon, daily attacked or theatened, and the army occupied in the field, might have leſs occaſion to murmur on account of arrears, we have ſtopped all payment in the civil eſtabliſhment for a year paſt; which, though proper in the conſideration we have mentioned, has however thrown the ſettlement into very poignant diſtreſs.

The army having been entirely ſupplied with proviſions from hence, and the conſumption of this ſettlement ſo encreaſed by the fugitives from the cruelties of Hyder, we now, notwithſtanding the great importations of grain from Bengal and the Circars, have not 1000 bags in ſtore: There are about eighteen thouſand bags in divers veſſels in the road. From the liſt you ſent us of ſhips ſaid to be bound from Calcutta with grain, for the account of the Company and individuals, there remains ſeventy thouſand bags of rice to arrive yet here; but by a calculation of the conſumption of that article, reſtrained as it has been by the high price it bore, and by regulations in the vent of it, it is evident that nothing leſs than a ſupply of 150,000 bags will prevent, before the end of the year, a famine here, of the approach of which there appears at preſent ſome moſt affecting ſymptoms. Our letters from the Circars, though they mention abundance of grains declare alſo the impoſſibility of ſending it to us, through want of tonnage. We have indeed taken up the few ſhips that could be had here, to bring us proviſions from thence, but the whole is inconſiderable, comparatively to the proſpect of our wants; and it is from your hands, whoſe liberality in furniſhing us troops, money, and proviſions, we have ſo long and ſo much experienced, that we muſt expect our chief ſupport.

We muſt obſerve, that we have had no aſſiſtance of any kind, from the Southern parts of this coaſt. Many of the forts are in poſſeſſion of our European or Indian enemies, which has greatly interrupted the communication; and the ſeizure, by ſome of his Majeſty's ſquadron, of veſſels laden

laden with grain for this market, as belonging to black people residing under the protection of the Dutch, is thought to have deterred many others, in their neighbourhood, from venturing out with supplies for us.

To the continuance of these evils we are not yet able to foresee a termination; for though the bravery and discipline of our troops, and the ability and experience of Sir Eyre Coote, have been attended with repeated victories, yet such are the difficulties that obstruct his progress, such is the facility the enemy possesses, of over-running and desolating the country, that the General entertains but little hope of enabling us to draw any supply of food or treasure from it. He has not been able hitherto to penetrate far into the country, either to the relief of our remote garrisons, or to the attack of the principal forts held by Hyder. As the whole conduct of the war has been entrusted to him, in consequence of a resolution of the late administration here, we have applied to him for a communication of his intentions, absolutely necessary to be known to us now, though hitherto we have contented ourselves either in exerting our authority in the manner he desired, or transferring it to him, for the purpose of forwarding his measures. He is now engaged in an attempt to relieve the garrison of Vellore, and possibly to attack Arcot, of which the event will no doubt determine his future plans; on which, and on the necessity of our situation, the resolutions of this Presidency will be founded. If the enemy should still continue his depredations in the Carnatic, thereby depriving us, in fact, entirely of the benefit of it, we must, with regard to all effectual resource, consider ourselves as immured within the walls of Fort St. George; and were even the enemy to withdraw from our neighbourhood, so effectually have all traces of cultivation disappeared, so destroyed are the villages, so ruined and dispersed are the individuals who were employed in tillage, that the inhabitants of the towns can, during part of next year, as well as in the end of the present, be by no other means preserved from famine than by external resource, mostly from your government.

We owe to the situation in which you are placed respecting this settlement—we owe to the exertions which you have made to extricate it from its difficulties—to lay before you its present state, from which you may judge of the fatal consequences which may attend the continuance of the war in the Carnatic, if the enemy should not soon be driven from it by our army, or be otherwise induced to retreat from it. That very army, by the vast load of expence, and additional consumption of provisions it must necessarily occasion, must hasten the misery of the settlement. Unless therefore our troops shall, in their present attempt, succeed, at least in procuring food and money for their own subsistence, we shall be compelled to divide them into cantonments;—happy if we could direct the whole, or part of them, to some national object that might compensate for past disappointment.

We have the honour to be,

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

Your most obedient humble servants,

Fort St. George,
20th September 1781.

(Signed) MACARTNEY,
ANTH. SADLIER,
Wm WILLIAMS.

EXTRACT of Bengal General Consultations, the 22d October 1781.

Read the following letter and inclosure from Mr. Auriol.

Gentlemen,

Impelled by a desire to alleviate any misrepresentations sent home to my disadvantage, and to prove myself worthy of the countenance and support of my employers, in whose service I have worked with incessant assiduity and approved diligence, during the space of near twelve years, having been all that time in the laborious office of the Secretary, in which, by an uncommon application

plication to the duties of my progreſſive ſtations through it, I have loſt my health, and greatly impaired my conſtitution; I hope I ſhall ſtand excuſed for intruding upon you with this addreſs.

Whilſt I was at Fort St. George, a ſhort time ago, I was informed that ſome perſons, mortified at their own declining proſpects, and jealous of the more promiſing aſpects of others, had thrown out invidious remarks upon the extent of my agency for the ſupply of that Preſidency with proviſions, &c. in its preſent diſtreſs, and on the amount of the commiſſion which had been granted to me by the Board for this ſervice. At firſt I paid little attention to ſuch a report, conceiving it to proceed merely from envy, the natural conſequence of diſappointment, which would ſoon die away and be forgotten; but the unhappy reverſe of fortune at Madras has been ſo ſeverely experienced by all ranks of people there, and the only ſource of preſent relief (received by many with jealouſy and deſire) being conſtantly before their eyes, it is not ſurprizing that the remarks at firſt propagated ſhould ſpread and become more general: I underſtand even that they have been pointedly taken notice of and repreſented in private letters to Europe.

As it would ill become me to attempt to vindicate the acts of Government, unleſs called upon for that purpoſe, I ſhall avoid that preſumption, and obſerve only, that the general rule of the ſervice, long ſince eſtabliſhed, was adverted to in fixing the rate of Agency on the diſburſements of my office, and made the ſtandard of that allowance; but I think it incumbent on me to endeavour to overſet the malicious allegations of diſcontented men, which tend to my prejudice, by attempting to prove that the ſervice executed by the agent has been performed on eaſier and better terms to the Company than at any former period; and this I truſt I ſhall be able to do by appealing to notorious and well authenticated facts, which ſtand open to reference without any ſpeculative reaſoning on the ſubject.

It is well known that the ſtores and other neceſſaries required by the different Preſidencies from Bengal, were formerly provided and ſent from the Buxey's office; but complaints were too frequently received of the badneſs of their quality, eſpecially from the iſland of St. Helena. No ſuch complaints, I truſt, will be made againſt the articles furniſhed by me, as I have taken particular care to procure the beſt, and at the moſt favourable markets; yet by comparing the invoices ſent by me to St. Helena, and thoſe diſpatched in former years, it will be found that the rate of charges on the latter, though the amount be ſmall, exceed mine very conſiderably, and it muſt be allowed that the actual price of every thing is greatly encreaſed within theſe few years. To elucidate my aſſertion, I need only refer to the Invoice Book in the Accomptant General's Office: I would draw a compariſon alſo between the price of the articles furniſhed; but as this muſt depend upon the quality of the goods, and the fluctuating ſtate of the markets, no exact criterion can be fixed.

The ſtores required of late years by the Preſidency of Fort Marlbro' have been purchaſed by their own immediate Agents, in order to obviate the inconveniencies of being furniſhed with aſſortments of inferior kinds, but the contracts entered into by the ſettlement for freight, and the other engagements which they have concluded for obtaining their ſupplies (I have reaſon to think, though I cannot aſcertain it) will be found more expenſive and uncertain than the mode now adopted.

It is well known that when the neceſſities of the Preſidency of Fort St. George firſt required the aſſiſtance of this government, a contract was made with Mr. John Fergusſion, to ſend them 80,000 bags of rice: Perceiving, after the completion of this engagement, that they would have occaſion for a much larger quantity, I gave in propoſals to contract for the ſupplying them, on the ſame terms, though the price of freight was then actually increaſed, and I foreſaw a proſpect of ſtill greater difficulty in procuring it: My propoſals however were not accepted, becauſe the Governor General did me the honour to ſay that, being a perſon in whom he could truſt for faithful accounts, and a proper attention to the public intereſt, he preferred giving me the buſineſs to perform as an Agent. To this I readily gave my aſſent, as it freed me from all riſque of loſs or failure, which I imagined might, and as the event has proved would, have been the conſequence of a contract, the freight to Madras on a bag of rice having ſince increaſed from 2½ rupees to 5 rupees, and many owners now refuſing to let their ſhips even at that rate.—The Board were pleaſed to appoint me Agent for Supplies to the other Preſidencies, and aſſigned me the uſual commiſſion of 15 per cent. for my trouble, as well as to defray the charges of my office ſuch as Clerks, Agents, Sircars, &c. The Members of the Board at the ſame time perſonally declared to me, that this poſt was intended as a reward for my long and laborious ſervices, which hitherto had been wholly unprofitable to me, as my income fell greatly ſhort of my neceſſary expences in the former part of this period; and when I attained the place of Secretary the Board had thought pro[illegible]duce the ſalary annexed to that office from 2,500 rupees per menſem to 1,800

1,800 rupees, a ſum barely ſufficient to maintain me in it with credit: I received the intended recompence with gratitude, and in conſequence thought myſelf bound to uſe every exertion on my part to relieve the wants of the ſettlement of Fort St. George, by ſending them the moſt ample and timely ſupplies of all kinds of proviſions for which they had indented. I took pains to procure and tranſport them as cheap as poſſible; I gave leſs in general for freight than was paid by individuals, and to this day I have never exceeded the price of 4 ficca rupees per bag, although private merchants were, at the ſame time charged as high as 4½, and have now actually agreed to give 5 rupees; I had, moreover, the pleaſure, while I was at Madras, to hear great commendations paſſed on the articles I had provided, in reſpect to quality; and I have obtained the moſt ſatisfactory evidence of this fact, as well as of the ſaving upon them to the Company, in the encloſed reports from Mr. Brodie, the garriſon ſtorekeeper there, which I leave to offer for your peruſal.

I might make a merit of having been conſtantly in advance for the Company large ſums of money, owing to the delays of payment at the Treaſury, as I could never liquidate the drafts aſſigned me till a long time after they became due. At preſent, notwithſtanding the order you have given for granting the demands for ſupplies to Madras a preference to all other iſſues from the Treaſury, except the pay of the army, I have received only 50,000 rupees in part of your draft for 400,000, dated the 1ſt inſtant; yet to avoid any preſent delay in loading and ſending away the Europe ſhips which have been ſent round to this place for grain, I have continued to raiſe money on the credit of having the above draft in my poſſeſſion, though with great difficulty, the amount of the balance already owing to me being ſo conſiderable that my credit, as well as that of my agents, have been ſtrained to the utmoſt pitch to advance it. The preſſing exigency of the ſervice made it continually neceſſary for me to raiſe money by every means in my power, to prevent the detenſion of veſſels on demurrage, and to ſave the ſeaſons for diſpatching them to Madras, which might have been miſſed, and additional charges incurred, had I waited the tardy payment of my orders on the treaſury. I have been obliged to pay a premium of 10 per cent. per annum on all the ſums which I borrowed, and my claim on the Company for the ſame, which is but equitable, would be very conſiderable; but on the idea that the amount of my commiſſion, even with this drawback, is ſtill ample, and the Company's finances too low at preſent to make this a proper criſis for preferring demands upon them, I have declined troubling you on that head; and I beg leave to aſſure you, that I ſhall always be ready to do my utmoſt for the promotion of the public good, both by contributing all my means and abilities, as far as they may go, towards that deſirable end.

Many are the advantages which accrue to the Company from the employment of an Agent; the extenſive dealings which he is obliged to have give him the firſt choice of all the articles brought to market, and he not only commands a preference, but is generally able to purchaſe grain from 8 to 10 per cent. cheaper than private merchants; he has the ſame advantage in engaging freight, as he has generally the firſt offers, and the rate agreed to by him uſually forms the ſtandard to be paid by individuals; who, however, are ſeldom able to obtain it on terms equally low, yet they find their account in giving it, and the amount of this article is generally regulated by the certain profit which the merchants or owners of veſſels, except on the diſpoſal of their cargoes, with a deduction for the riſque of the ſeas, or inſurance: While I was at Madras, the government were under the neceſſity of purchaſing rice at about 8 rupees per bag, for which they drew bills upon Bengal, on a diſadvantageous exchange; and the rice furniſhed them by means of the Agent at the ſame time ſtood the Company only in 6 rupees per bag, or thereabouts, but being obliged to iſſue rice inſtead of money for the pay of the ſepoys, at a fixed valuation, calculated on the proportion which their eſtabliſhed allowances bear to the common price of that article, this difference is to be accounted for, yet they will always be compelled to follow the ſame mode of fulfilling their engagements with the native troops, unleſs this government is able to furniſh them with ample ſupplies, and private merchants will conſequently benefit by their neceſſities.

I ſhall quit this ſubject with remarking, that government derives a further advantage, by ſending grain to Madras in lieu of money; as the former not only makes good the charge of tranſportation, but produces a remittance, which, if it yields no profit, at leaſt is ſeldom ſubject to loſs, and comes into immediate uſe; whereas the ſending of bullion deprives this country of ſo much of its current ſpecie, is ſubject to the charge of freight, to loſs on coinage, and the proceſs of this operation requiring ſome months, on a large ſum it is all that time before it comes into circulation.

However, as the price of freight to Madras, is now become very exorbitant, and the amount of commiſſion upon that article conſequently increaſed, I deſire not to burthen the public with

additional expence on that account, or to derive any advantage from the neceſſities which the moſt ſcrupulous might juſtly find fault with; I am therefore willing to ſubmit any agency to any regulation which the Board may think reaſonable and proper to make in this reſpect; obſerving only, that great part of my advances for the Company ariſe upon the article of freight, as the Chiefs of Jnjeram, and other ſettlements on the coaſt, have made large drafts upon me for money advanced on account of country veſſels engaged by them to convey cargoes of rice from Calcutta to Fort St. George, at the proper ſeaſon.

I have the honour, &c.

Calcutta,
15th October 1781. (Signed) J. P. AURIOL.

Sir,

I have the pleaſure to ſend you a copy of the report I made to the Board ſome time ago of the rice imported here on the Company's account, in conſignment from the Governor General and Council, and on a contract made by them with Mr. John Ferguſſon; the laſt, being far inferior in quality, coſts at leaſt 20 per cent. more than the average rate of the cargoes received in direct conſignment to this government.

I am, Sir,

September 7th 1781. Yours, &c.

(Signed) A. BRODIE.

To Mr. Auriol.

To the Honourable Charles Smith, Eſquire, Governor and Preſident, &c. Gentlemen of the Council at Fort St. George.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

Agreeable to the orders of your honours, I beg leave to report to you, that the rice imported here in conſignment from the Honourable the Governor General and Council of Bengal is of a very excellent quality, and greatly ſuperior to that delivered into the ſtores from Mr. Ferguſſon's Agents, on account of his contract; which, although anſwering well to the muſters ſealed with the Company's ſeal, is nevertheleſs old, and of a very indifference ſort.

I have the honour to be,

With reſpect,

(Copy) Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

Your faithful and obedient humble ſervant,

(Signed) A. BRODIE.

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, the 12th November 1781.

To the Honourable Warren Haſtings, Eſquire, the Governor General, &c. Supreme Council, Fort William.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

Accompanying we have the honour to ſend you the account of receipts and diſburſements for the ſupplies of the other preſidency, brought up to the day on which our conſtituent returned. We

We cannot conclude this, without expreſſing our hopes that our conduct has met with your approbation, and that the efforts we have exerted for the public ſervice have had their effect.

We have the honour to be,

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

Your moſt obedient

Humble ſervants,

Calcutta,
12th Nov. 1781.

CUDBERT THORNHILL,
And J. L. AURIOL,
Attornies to the Ag^t for ſupp^s the other preſid^es

Ordered, That the accounts referred to in the above letter be ſent to the Accountant General, and that he be directed to audit the accounts of the Agent of ſupplies to the other preſidencies, in the ſame manner as thoſe of the offices at the preſidency.

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, 21ſt January 1782.

Read a letter from the Agent for ſupplies to the other preſidencies.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

Encloſed I have the honour to lay before you an abſtract account of my receipts and diſburſements for the ſupplies of the preſidency of Fort St. George, from the 1ſt of October to the end of December, accompanied by the particular accounts therein referred to.

I have the honour, &c.

Calcutta,
15th January 1782.

(Signed) J. P. AURIOL.
Agent for ſupplies of the other preſidencies.

Ordered, That the encloſure in the above letter be ſent to the Accountant General.

Read another letter as follows, from the Agent for ſupplies to the other preſidencies.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

The difficulty which I experienced in ſending the remainder of the ſtores and proviſions to Fort St. George, which have been indented for by that preſidency, owing to a want of money, and the impoſſibility of raiſing any more for the purpoſe, make it neceſſary for me to addreſs you on that ſubject. The ſupplies to Fort St. George, for ſome time paſt, both in ſpecie and grain, have, no doubt, been very conſiderable. The ſpecie which is now ſaving and laying by out of the daily receipts at the treaſury, implies further remittances of the firſt, and the orders under which I act require alſo a greater extenſion of the latter. But as the treaſury, which is the only ſource of both, is inadequate to the ſupplies required, and the ſaving made for the former impedes the progreſs of the latter, it may not be improper to offer a comparative view of the proceeds of both modes of remittance at Fort St. George, that the Board may have this information before them when they fix the proportions of each to be hereafter obſerved. In this I am ſorry I have not more authentic documents to appeal to, though ſuch as I have obtained I am confident are juſt.—A large ſhip was tendered to the Company in Auguſt laſt, for carrying rice to Madras, at 5 rupees per bag, but rejected by my Agents, becauſe the terms were high, and money ſcarce. The ſame ſhip was afterwards laden on private account, with 8,603 bags of rice; and according to an account ſales received from Madras, it was actually ſold to the Company and others for pag^s — — — 22,997 36 74

Which, at the exchange of 380 a^rs per 100 pag^s, amounts to current rupees				94,383	6 9
The ſame rice, exported at the Company's expence on the terms demanded, would have ſtood them in, current rupees	—	—	—	82,579	13 5
Difference in favour of the conſignment of grain, current rupees			—	11,803	9 4

About 14¼ per cent. as may be ſeen by the abſtracts encloſed.

By

By the Mint Maſter's report in my poſſeſſion, formed on accounts received from Madras, of the actual produce of the remittances made to that Preſidency in ſpecie and bullion, it appears, that an average loſs has been ſuſtained of 4. 13 per cent. on the gold, which was previouſly reduced in the Mint here to Star Pagoda ſtandard, and of 5,689 per cent. on the gold ſent thither in ſpecie, beſides freight on each, which has been rated as high as 3½ per cent. and other charges, making in the whole the aſtoniſhing difference of full 23 per cent. in favour of the conſignment of grain.

Dels.

The exportation of grain is beneficial to this country, as the lands have juſt yielded a moſt plentiful crop; and at the ſame time that it affords a ſeaſonable relief to their diſtreſſes at Madras, it may be immediately converted into ready money for the uſe of Government, by the certain ſale of it in public markets.

The exportation of ſpecie is a drain to this country of its currency, at a time when the ſcarcity of money is a ſubject of general complaint; and it cannot be of any ſervice at Madras till it has undergone the operation of re-coinage, which muſt neceſſarily take up a conſiderable time.

Admitting that the Government of Fort St. George are bound to deliver out the rice ſent them to the Sepoys at a low rate, by which the Company ſuſtain a loſs, this is no argument againſt the facts I have ſtated, becauſe, when they have no rice, they are obliged to purchaſe it of individuals at the market price for the purpoſe, as they frequently have done, by which the Company ſuſtain a much greater loſs.

If the Honourable Board ſhould, nevertheleſs, be of opinion that the Preſidency of Fort St. George cannot be ſupported in the preſent emergency without ſupplies of money, as well as proviſions, I would engage to remit any ſpecific amount which may be allotted for that purpoſe, without exporting the ſpecie of this country, unleſs all other means ſhould prove inſufficient to accompliſh it, and at a much leſs charge to the public, than by the tranſportation of that article, if I am employed as agent in this buſineſs.

The circumſtance of the ſavings which I have formerly made to the Company, in the great remittances to Bombay, are not unknown to the Board; I need not therefore repeat them, to enforce the preſent queſtion: But I have to remark, that the negociation of bills for remittances to the other Preſidencies fall within the line of my duty, as Secretary, and ought to be connected with the ſupply of money, in its moſt extenſive ſenſe, to avoid a claſhing of meaſures, which muſt infallibly tend to increaſe the difficulties and charges of the operation of remittance.

I have before informed the Board how conſiderably I am in advance for the public ſervice, by means of loans which I took up to prevent the diſappointments and loſſes by demurrage, which would neceſſarily have been the conſequence of waiting the tardy iſſues of money from the treaſury. Theſe ſums are ſtill owing to me. The balance in my favour, on the 15th inſtant, was, by the accompanying account current, 2,79,937. 9. 9; and there are at this time 1,000 tierces of ſalt proviſions provided, in compliance with an indent previous to the contract for that article made by the Board with Mr. Touchet, and 2,000 tierces more furniſhed by him, no part of which can yet be tranſported for want of money. Many other articles lie in the ſame manner, and the cargoes of the veſſels freighted from Mr. Touchet remain to be compleated: Thus circumſtanced, I have lately ceaſed to engage any veſſels for the Company's account. I am at this time threatened with the proteſt of bills accepted for the public ſervice, which are paſt due; and I can neither prevail on the holders to forbear their demands, nor raiſe more money on my own credit, to diſcharge them: Indeed, if I were able to raiſe money, I could not afford to advance it without intereſt; for although I made no claim of intereſt at the time when my diſburſements gave me a right to charge the commiſſion allowed, yet, as that benefit is now at an end, I remain with the weight of the debt upon myſelf that was incurred for the Company, without any compenſation for the intereſt which I am to pay upon it.

I have the honour, &c.

(Signed) J. P. AURIOL,

Agent for Supplies to the other Preſidencies.

Fort William,
21ſt January 1782.

ACCOUNT

Madras, 25th October 1781.

ACCOUNT SALES of 8,603 Bags of Cargo Rice, of Two Buzar Maunds each, turned out at Madras 8,730 bags, viz.

	G.	Mds	m.				
7,396 ſold to the Company, Wt	131.	270.	7.	- at 150 Pagodas per Garce	19,751	20	60
1,048 Dº to the Squadron, Wt	18.	238.	7.	- a. 150 -	2,789	20	60
286 Dº to different People -	5.	41.	2.	- a. 150 -	766	3	54
					23,307	3	14
				Charges - - -	309	8	20
				Pagodas -	22,997	36	74
				Exchange at 380 Arcot rupees per 100 pagodas, - A. R.	87,392	1	-
				Batta, 8 per cent. -	6,991	5	9
				Current Rupees -	94,383	6	9

The above rice at the higheſt price at which rice was ſold in Calcutta, would have been invoiced as follows: viz.

8,730 bags, of 2 Buzar Maunds, 17,460, at 39 Seer per Arcot rupee - - - -	17,907	11	-	
Batta, 8 per cent. - - -	1,432	9	9	
Freight, at 5 ſicca rupees per bag - - -	50,634	-	-	
Charges of merchandize - - -	1,834	4	2	
Commiſſion - - - -	10,771	4	6	
				82,579 13 5
			Gain on this adventure, C. Rs.	11,803 9 4

which is a gain per cent. of ſomething more than 14¾

Average Loſs on ſending bullion, as per the Mint Maſter's report, in my poſſeſſion, per cent. - - - -	5
Freight on bullion to Madras - - - - - -	3½
Charges, ſay - - - - - - -	¼
	8¾

Difference between ſending rice or bullion. in favour of the former — 23 per cent.

Dr. ACCOUNT of the Receipts and Diſburſements of the Agent for ſupplying the other Preſidencies, from the 1ſt to the 15th of January 1782. Cr.

1782.			1782.		
January 5th.	To caſh received from the Treaſury in part payment of an order, dated 3d Dec. 1781, for current rupees 3,50,000	45,000 — —	January 1ſt.	By balance of laſt month's account — —	89,337 8 11
8.	To D° — D° — D° — —	58,000 — —	2d.	By invoice of the ſnow Aſia, Capt. Andrew Nelſon, to Fort St. George — —	26,013 — —
	To balance due to me — — —	2,79,937 9 9	10th.	By ſnow Charles, Moolakeey Sarang —	10,420 8 5
				By ſnow Henry, Syfoolah D° — —	19,245 7 2
				By ſnow William, Paunchoo D°	18,658 11 5
			14th.	By ſhip Doddloy, Captain Charanton —	60,337 11 4
				By ſhip Groſvenor, Captain J. Coxon —	20,424 10 6
				By caſh advanced for ſalt proviſions — —	37,500 — —
				By Do. — Do. — for freight of country veſſels	20,000 — —
				By Do. — Do. — for gunny bags — —	6,000 — —
				By Do. — Do. for rice — — —	75,000 — —
	Current rupees —	3,82,937 9 9		Current rupees —	3,82,937 9 9

Calcutta, 21ſt January 1782.

Errors excepted.

(Signed) J. P AURIOL,

Agent for Supplies to the other Preſidencies.

The Sub-Treaſurer being called before the Board, is deſired to inform them, how ſoon he thinks he ſhall be able to pay up to the Agent the balance due upon the orders of January, granted to him. The Sub-Treaſurer accordingly acquaints the Board, that he has bills upon the houſe of Jugget Seat, which he expects to liquidate in the courſe of this week; and that from the receipts upon them the balance due to the Agent may be paid up without delay.

The Agent being aſked, If this will be ſufficient to enable him to execute the ſervice dependant upon him? aſſures the Board, that he will uſe his endeavours for that purpoſe.

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, 18th February 1782.

EXTRACT of Letter from the Preſident and Council of Fort St. George, dated 9th January 1782.

The Honourable Company's ſhips, Queen and Fortitude, having delivered their conſignments for this Preſidency, we diſpatch them to you, each with fifty tons of redwood on board; invoice and bills of lading of which are herewith encloſed.

As the army entirely depends upon our ſtore of grain for ſubſiſtence, and the conſumption of courſe is very great, we truſt we may depend upon your returning the Queen and Fortitude, to us with cargoes of rice, as expeditiouſly as poſſible.

Ordered, That the Agent for ſupplies be directed to lade grain on board the Queen and Fortitude, agreeable to the requeſt of the Preſident and Council of Fort St. George.

EXTRACT of Bengal Secret Conſultations, 25th February 1782.

EXTRACT of Letter from the Preſident and Council of Fort St. George, to the Governor General and Council, dated 3d February 1782.

We have had the honour of receiving your letter of 26th December laſt, and have a perfect ſenſe of the zealous and judicious efforts of your government, both in affording us ſupplies, and in counteracting the invading enemy.

Indeed we have many cauſes to be ſenſible of your unremitted and zealous attention to the ſafety and welfare of every part of this coaſt, and have given, what alone was in our power, ample teſtimony of your exertions, in all our letters to our honourable employers.

EXTRACT of Bengal Secret Conſultations, 11th March 1782.

EXTRACT of Letter from the Preſident and Council of Fort St. George, to the Governor General and Council, dated 25th February 1782.

We need not obſerve to you, that your aſſiſtance is now become more neceſſary to our preſervation than ever. If you can enable us to pay and ſubſiſt our army, and the expected reinforcements, we doubt not of fruſtrating the deſigns of our enemies, but without thoſe aids, the worſt conſequences may be apprehended; but you may rely on every exertion on our part to prevent them from happening.

EXTRACT

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, 11th March 1782.

Read a Letter, as follows, from the Agent of Supplies.

Gentlemen,

Having been ordered to lade as many of Mr. Touchet's veſſels with rice, for the Preſidency of Fort St. George, as could be ready to ſail by the 25th ultimo, I accordingly completed the loading of 20, with 14,432 bags of rice; and they proceeded down the river as low as Fulta, where they have ſince been detained by the very ſtrong Southerly winds which have prevailed for ſome time paſt.

As the Southerly monſoon, though remarkably early, appears now to be thoroughly ſet in; and as it is the general opinion of the ſeafaring people, that theſe veſſels are incapable of effecting a paſſage againſt it, I think it my duty to report to the Board that they are yet advanced no further than Fulta, (whence however Mr. Touchet aſſures me that he thinks they may proceed in the enſuing ſprings, if the weather is at all moderate) and that by the accounts which I have received, ſome of them have been damaged by the extraordinary violence of the wind, and rapidity of the ſtream.

I have the honour to be, &c.

J. P. AURIOL,

Fort William,
7th March, 1782.

Agent for Supplies to the other Preſidency.

The above letter having been circulated on the 8th inſtant, the Governor General propoſed that an order ſhould be given for unloading Mr. Touchet's veſſels, and for deferring their diſpatch till the next fair ſeaſon, as it is not likely they ſhould be able to make good a voyage to Madras at this advanced period of the year.

The Governor General's propoſal being agreed to, the neceſſary orders were iſſued accordingly.

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, 25th March 1782.

Read the following Letter from the Accomptant General.

Honourable Sir and Gentlemen,

In obedience to your orders of the 12th November 1781, I have now the honour to report to you, that on an examination of the accounts of the Agent for the ſupplies to the other Preſidencies, I find them to be correct in their additions and calculations; that they correſpond with thoſe of the Treaſury, in the ſums charged in the latter as advanced to him; that the ſums charged in his accounts correſpond with the invoices of ſupplies ſent to the other Preſidencies; that the commiſſion charged at 15 per cent. upon the proviſions ſupplied, upon the charges of ſhipping them, and upon the freight, is accurately computed.

The Agent being upon honour with reſpect to the ſums charged in his accounts, for the coſt of the articles ſupplied, I did not think myſelf authorized to require any voucher of the ſums charged for the demurrage of ſloops, either as to the time of detention, or the rate of the charge, or of thoſe for the articles loſt in going down the river; and on that ground I thought myſelf equally bound to admit the ſums acknowledged as received for the ſales of goods returned, without requiring vouchers of the rates at which they were ſold.

LIST

LIST of Accounts examined, and herewith ſubmitted to the Honourable Board.

Abſtract Account of the Receipts and Diſburſements of the Agent for Supplies to the other Preſidencies, from the 18th December 1780, to the 31ſt January 1781.
D° — D° — D°, from the 1ſt February to the 28th February 1781.
D° — D° — D°, from the 1ſt March to the 30th April 1781.
D° — D° — D°, from the 1ſt May to the 30th September 1781.
D° — D° — D°, from the 1ſt October to the 31ſt December 1781.
Account ſales of rice, tamarind, and one caſk of ſalt proviſions returned from the ſhip Free-Maſon.
Account ſales of oil and ghee returned damaged from the ſhip Creſpigney.
Account current of rice and ſundry ſtores loſt in the Snow George, belonging to Mr. Pugh, which broke from her anchors off the Old Fort, and was overſet by a North Weſter on the 27th March.
Account of rice and dall loſt in going down to be laden on the Creſpigney.
Account of ſloops demurrage going down to be laden on ſeveral ſhips.
Account of ſundry petty charges for St. Helena, ſtores and ſloops demurrage.
Account of 200 bags of rice loſt in a Bhur, going down to be laden on the ſhip Royal Charlotte.
Account of ſloops demurrage going down to be laden on ſeveral veſſels.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Fort William,
Account[t] Gen[l] Office,
28th January, 1782.

(Signed) Wm. LARKINS,
Account[t] General.

Ordered, That the accounts incloſed in the above letter be returned to the Accomptant General.

The Board obſerve, That the rates of the purchaſes made by the Agent being in general low, and his charges reaſonable, excepting freight, which has been raiſed by the exceſſive demand for grain at Madras, and commiſſion upon the ſame, which has conſequently enhanced in proportion;

Agreed, That his accounts be paſſed up to the 31ſt December 1781, in their preſent form; but from that period that he draw no more commiſſion on the freight, charges of ſhipping, or any other charges, than the rate of 5 per cent. being the cuſtomary amount drawn by merchants.

And as an equivalent for any advances of money which it may be neceſſary for the Agent to make for carrying on the ſervice, if there ſhould not be aſſets in the Treaſury to anſwer the drafts made upon it in his favour,

Reſolved, That he be allowed the current intereſt of Calcutta upon all ſuch drafts, from the day of their dates until they ſhall be completely liquidated.

Ordered, That notice thereof be ſent to the Accomptant General, and to the Sub-Treaſurer.

Agreed, That the following Letter be written to Fort St. George.

My Lord, and Gentlemen,

We have received your letter of the 22d March, by the Reſolution.

We requeſt that you will be pleaſed to tranſmit to us, as ſoon as may be convenient, a complete indent for all the articles of grain, proviſions, and ſtores, which you may require from this Preſidency in the courſe of the enſuing year, that we may take early meaſures for furniſhing them in the beſt and moſt effectual manner.

We are, &c.

Fort William,
the 1ſt April 1782.

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, the 25th April 1782.

The Agent of Supplies ſends in the following Letters.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs.

In obedience to your orders of the 8th inſt. I have made particular enquiry for the propereſt and ſecureſt places on which golas could be erected, for the depoſit of grain for the ſupply of the Madras Preſidency; and I beg leave to recommend either or both of the following ſpots of ground, which may be obtained for that purpoſe, the firſt being the property of the Company, and the laſt belonging to an individual, who is willing to let it for a moderate rent; both are contiguous to the river ſide, where ſhips may load with convenience, and neither of them ſo much expoſed to the common accident of fire, from any ſtraw buildings and bazars adjoining, as the golas in Calcutta, or on the oppoſite ſhore.

The firſt place which I mean is ſituated on the South of the Eſplanade, between the Fort and the mouth of Tolly's Canal; this might admit of golas for 1 lack of maunds and would run little riſk of fire, if ſome of the neareſt ſtraw huts were removed.

The other is a ſpot of ground South of Colonel Watſon's docks, and between his houſe and the gardens now occupied by Doctor Jackſon, which would admit of room for the depoſit of about 50,000 maunds; and the owner of it has further offered to let a brick warehouſe which is ſituated near it, ſufficiently large to contain 20,000 maunds, at the monthly rent of.

I would further propoſe the erection of golas for 50,000 maunds, at Kedjeree,

I have the honour to encloſe my accounts for laſt month.

I am, with reſpect, &c.

Fort William,
16th April 1782.

J. P. AURIOL,
Agent for Supplies to the other Preſidency.

EXTRACT of Letter from Agent for Supplies to the Governor General and Council dated 19th April 1782.

I think it my duty to acquaint you, that the rice which was ſent down to Kedjeree, as long ago as the end of February, for loading the Southampton, was carried along ſide of that ſhip as ſoon as ſhe was ready to receive her cargo, but the officer on board refuſed to take it in, notwithſtanding the Captain's order was preſented to him; and the Bhúrs which contained it were obliged in conſequence to bring it back, ſome to Calcutta and ſome to Kedjeree. The blowing weather having then ſet in, it was impoſſible for thoſe veſſels to go out a ſecond time, and it was hardly poſſible to engage ſloops; after many endeavours, however, I did engage two ſloops, on which I re-loaded and diſpatched the rice, with peremptory orders to receive it on board the Southampton; but as the ſhip had removed to the Baraballa, where it is dangerous for her to lay any time at this ſeaſon, and as the ſtrong Southerly winds muſt obſtruct the paſſage of the ſloops, which could not leave town before the 15th inſtant, I doubt whether they will be able to reach her before ſhe ſails.

Agreed, that the Agent of Supplies be authorized to build golas for 1 lack of maunds of rice, to the South of the New Fort, and for 50,000 maunds at Kedjeree.

Ordered, That his account be ſent to the Accountant General for audit.

Ordered, That Captain Lennox be called upon to anſwer for his officer's refuſing to receive the rice on board the Southampton.

EXTRACT

EXTRACT of Bengal Secret Conſultations, the 6th June 1782.

EXTRACT of Letter from the Preſident and Council of Fort St. George, to the Governor General and Council, dated 8th May 1782.

We have had the honour to receive your letter of the 1ſt and 8th April, and agreeably to your deſire we now encloſe an indent of grain and proviſions, that we ſhall require from your Preſidency in the courſe of the enſuing year; with reſpect to the article of rice, although our garriſon ſtore-keeper has mentioned 3,00,000 bags, we do not wiſh to limit your ſupplies to that quantity, but ſhall be thankful for as much more as it may be in your power to ſend us; when the expected tranſports arrive we ſhall endeavour to obtain them, for the purpoſe of bringing to us your ſupplies; but as they will not be under our authority, we doubt much if we ſhall ſucceed.

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, the 13th June 1782.

The Secretary lays before the Board the following letter from Captain Lennox.

Sir,

You will pleaſe to inform the Honourable Governor General and Council, that the Southampton is ſafe out, and in 40 fathoms of water, with a moderate breeze at S. W. by W. and I hope ſhe will get eaſily out of the bay. The ſloop which Mrs. Lloyd loaded with rice for us came juſt through the Buoys of Cockalee, and returned without making any further attempt to get on board, ſo we were obliged to proceed without it; otherwiſe the pilot ſaid he run a great riſque of not getting out theſe ſprings, and by that means might loſe a ſeaſon.

I am, &c.

Ship Southampton,
2 Lat. 20. 45 N.
May 27th, 1782.

(Signed) JOHN LENOX.

EXTRACT of Bengal Secret Conſultations, the 4th July 1782.

POSTCRIPT of Letter from the Select Committee at Fort St. George, dated 13th June 1782.

As we find it very difficult and inconvenient to ſupply Trincomalee with rice, we beg leave to recommend that a veſſel laden with that article, and a quantity of gunpowder be ſent thither direct from Bengal. The gunpowder may be of great uſe, if depoſited there, to ſupply the caſual demands of the fleet, which in a late action expended a large quantity. We endeavour to ſupply them as well as we can out of our little ſtock; but we have lately ſuffered ſevere loſſes in that article.

EXTRACT of Letter to Fort St. George, dated Fort William, 4th July 1782.

We repeat, that we ſhall continue to ſupply your wants to the utmoſt extent of our abilities, by every mode of exertion which is likely to be attended with ſucceſs.

EXTRACT

EXTRACT of Court's Letter to Bengal, dated 12th July 1782.

Par. 41. Having taken into our conſideration the appointment of Mr. Auriol to be agent for ſupplying the other Preſidencies, and our iſland of of St. Helena, with grain, with a commiſſion of 15 per cent. on his diſburſements; and having examined all your proceedings thereon, we cannot but expreſs our diſpleaſure at ſuch an unneceſſary expenditure of the Company's money.

42. Our Preſidency of Bombay have informed us, that they received a conſignment from Bengal, of 3,040 bags of rice, and that they could not but be ſtruck with the enormous account of the charges, which were ſaid to be near rupees 7 per bag—The freight alone was charged at 5 rupees per bag, when they could have contracted for it at Bombay, free of all riſk and charges, at rupees 5. 3 per bag.—But what appeared inexplicable to them was, the commiſſion of 15 per cent. to the agent, which commiſſion was not only charged on the prime coſt of the rice, but alſo on the freight, and all other charges.—It likewiſe appears, from the eſtimate which you have tranſmitted to us, of the probable reſources and diſburſements of your Government, within the 30th April 1781 and the 1ſt May 1782, that the amount which it is expected the agent will require from your treaſury in 1781-2 will be, current rupees 15,92,500 at 15 per cent. on this ſum, the commiſſion will amount to current rupees 2,38,875—or (taking the rupee at 2s. 3d.) £.26,873.

43. This profuſion of expence is at all times wholly unjuſtifiable;—but that you ſhould have adopted it when the Company were in the utmoſt diſtreſs for money, and almoſt every department in arrear, ſhews how little attention has been given to our real intereſts.

44. In thus diſapproving a meaſure ſo wholly unjuſtifiable, we mean not to convey cenſure on Mr. Auriol, or on any other perſons who may have been appointed to ſimilar agencies: But all ſuch appointments are to be forewith annulled; adhering to and repeating our former orders, that ſuch parts of the Company's buſineſs as can be done by contract, be ſo executed; and in concluding ſuch contract, you are to take the inſtructions already before you for your guidance.

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, the 18th Auguſt 1783.

Read the following letter from the Preſident and Council at Fort St. George.

To the Honourable Warren Haſtings, Eſquire, Governor General, and Council, at Fort William.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

We have the pleaſure to inform you, that ſince our letter to you of the 21ſt July, the Honourable Company's ſhips Barwell, Lord Macartney, York, Stormont, Laſcelles, Halſewell, and Belmont, have ſafely arrived here from England.—On board them are part of his Majeſty's 36th and 52d regiments of infantry; and we find the remainder of thoſe corps are in the expected ſhips, which ſailed at the ſame time. The additional expence that will neceſſarily be incurred by the arrival of theſe troops has ſerved to increaſe the anxiety we before felt on account of our diſtreſſes for money. We have not now in our Treaſury, including the amount of the bills you have lately tranſmitted hither, and to Maſulipatam, more than ſufficient for a month's diſburſements; and we ſee no proſpect of any eſſential ſupply, but from you. Thus ſituated, we beg leave to call your attention to our approaching neceſſities. Our poverty has long expoſed us to inconvenience and embarraſſment; but the moſt fatal conſequences are now to be apprehended, unleſs we receive ſpeedy ſupport from you. Our own funds are trifling, in compariſon with our preſent expences; and our ſole dependance is upon your aſſiſtance, which you have hitherto in our emergencies ſo liberally afforded us, that we flatter ourſelves we ſhall ſtill be extricated from difficulty, by a continuance of your exertion in our favour.

We cannot at the ſame time forbear obſerving to you, how much more convenient and quick the

the remittance in bullion is than by the Shroffs bills, which are drawn at a very long ſight, and are not by any means negociable.

We are,

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

Your moſt obedient ſervants,

Fort St. George,
26th July, 1783.

(Signed) MACARTNEY, &c. Council.

To the Honourable Warren Haſtings, Eſquire, Governor General, and Council, at Fort William.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

We have reſolved to diſcontinue the ſuſpenſion of the import duties on grain and proviſions after the 1ſt day of Auguſt next, at this port; and we requeſt you will direct this reſolution to be made public throughout your ſettlements.

We are,

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

Your moſt obedient ſervants.

Fort St. George,
27th July, 1783.

Ordered, that the diſcontinuance of the ſuſpenſion of the import duties at the port of Madras on grain and proviſions, after the 1ſt inſtant, be, as is requeſted in the letter from thence of the 27th ultimo, immediately made public.

The Governor General deſires, That the Board will permit him to record the copy of an advertiſement which he received in a private letter by the ſame poſt from Madras, mentioned as a paper of public notoriety, which the nature of it confirms.

The Right Honourable the Preſident and Council having provided a very large ſtock of grain, at an immenſe expence, to ſupply the public emergencies of this Settlement, at that time univerſally judged proper to guard againſt: But the peace lately concluded between the European powers then at war rendering it unneceſſary to keep ſo large a quantity of grain in ſtore, Notice is hereby given, that the Honourable Company's rice on hand will be iſſued and ſold by retail, in the Bazars, at the preſent market price of ſtar pagodas 133⅓ per Madras garce, or 3 mercall per ſtar pagoda; and as Government has ſuffered a part loſs by providing for the eventual diſtreſſes of the inhabitants, and is undoubtedly entitled to the primary relief, from the incumbrance entailed by engagements intended for the public benefit, Notice is likewiſe given, that this Government has aſſumed to itſelf the excluſive privilege of ſelling rice by retail, until farther orders; and has accordingly commanded all boutiques for the ſale by retail of rice belonging to individuals to be ſhut up for the preſent.

By order of the Right Honourable,

the Preſident and Council,

Fort St. George,
29th July 1783.

(Signed) CHARLES FREEMAN.

Agreed, That the following letter be written to Fort St. George.

(Extract) (Preſident and Council)

My Lord, and Gentlemen,

We have the honour to acknowledg our receipt of your letters of the 26th and 27th of July, and 5th of Auguſt, and have, in conformity to your requeſt, made public yonr reſolution to diſcontinue the ſuſpenſion of the import duties on grain and proviſions at your port, after the 1ſt inſtant.

At the ſame time that we were made acquainted with this reſolution, we received a communication of an advertiſement publiſhed at your Preſidency, of your having aſſumed to yourſelves the excluſive privilege of ſelling rice by retail, and having commanded all boutiques for the ſale by retail of rice belonging to individuals to be ſhut up for the preſent. It is true, that you have not notified to us any ſuch publication; but as it is mentioned to be, and muſt of courſe be, if it exiſts, a matter of general notoriety, we ſuppoſe it to be authentic: We incloſe a copy of it, and requeſt that you will inform us, if ſuch a publication has been actually iſſued; it prohibits the ſale of all rice, but that in your own ſtores, without even a reſervation for any already in your port, or even landed: We are free to declare, that both this publication, and that which you have notified to us in your letter of the 27th ultimo, muſt be productive of very heavy and unmerited loſſes to thoſe who had provided cargoes of grain for your port, under the faith of that freedom of importation which has been hitherto allowed, and to which they were undoubtedly entitled, until a ſufficient time had been given them to diſpoſe of it. We are more eſpecially induced to take notice of theſe publications, as the injury ariſing from them is likely to fall with peculiar weight upon the merchants of this Preſidency, who, you will permit us to ſay, deſerved a different return for the liberal ſupplies which they have afforded you under our encouragement, during your greateſt diſtreſſes.

We expect to be ſoon furniſhed with an official ſtatement of our means to ſupply your wants, and will then conſider the requeſt, which you have made of our aſſiſtance, in your letter of the 26th ultimo; but in the mean time we beg leave to repeat our requeſt, for the return of your Bengal detachments and artillery, which we conceive will be productive of a great relief to your expences.

We are ſorry that you ſhould have had the trouble of tranſmitting to us the accounts of his Majeſty's different regiments, incloſed in your letter of the 5th inſtant, as they do not fall within our department, and the Court of Directors have given you particular orders on this ſubject for your guidance.

EXTRACT of Bengal Secret Conſultations, the 26th Auguſt 1782.

EXTRACT of Letter from the Select Committee at Fort St. George, dated 6th Auguſt 1782.

You will obſerve by the intelligence herewith incloſed, that there is a poſſibility that the enemy may ſoon again be ſuperior at ſea, and it may therefore prove of the greateſt importance, that whatſoever ſupplies you are able to ſend us, ſhould leave Calcutta as early as may be practicable.

EXTRACT of Bengal Secret Conſultations, 23d September 1782.

EXTRACT of Letter from the Preſident and Council of Fort William, to the Secret Committe of Fort St. George, dated 11th September 1782.

The advices which we have received from different quarters, collected and compared, induce us to credit a report, of a very large additional reinforcement which may be daily expected by the enemy, ſuch as may lead them to conſider themſelves equal to any undertaking. It

It is our duty, therefore, to prepare, as far as we are able, againſt any attempt; but we are little able to do any thing, otherwiſe than by ſoliciting you for a moſt plentiful and immediate ſupply of money, proviſions and gunpowder. We know your readineſs to aſſiſt this ſettlement, and have only therefore to ſuggeſt to you that it may be proper, in default of tonnage procured with the conſent of individuals, to preſs ſuch further tonnage as may be within your power.

The Soucars, with whom you have treated to ſupply us with money, have not as yet begun to effectuate any of their promiſes.

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, 23d September 1782.

The Agent for Supplies informs the Board, that two of the veſſels belonging to Mr. Touchet have been laden with rice for Madras, and that ſeveral more are expected to be afloat, and ready for ſurvey in a few days; but the ſeaſon being ſo far advanced, that the monſoon will very likely be ſet in before they can reach Madras, when it will, probably, be dangerous for any veſſel to lie there. The Agent thought it incumbent on him to mention this to Mr. Touchet, and to decline landing any more of his veſſels until the return of the fair ſeaſon, without authority from the Board, Mr. Touchet, in reply, having expreſſed a hope that in ſuch caſe he might be allowed to let them to freight to individuals, eſpecially as he ſhould have a ſufficient number of craft ready, in the fair ſeaſon, to clear off his debt to the Company. The Agent begs to receive the orders of the Board upon this ſubject.

The Preſidency of Fort St. George having written to us in ſuch preſſing terms, to continue our ſupplies of grain at all riſks,

Ordered, That the Agent do continue loading thoſe veſſels, belonging to Mr. Touchet, which ſhall be reported fit to proceed to ſea with the cargoes deſigned for them.

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, 24th October 1782.

Read the following letter from the Agent of Supplies.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

An alarming apprehenſion of ſcarcity in the crops of rice which are now growing, having been created by the extraordinary drought which has prevailed for ſome time paſt, I think it neceſſary to acquaint you with the preſent ſtate of my ſupplies to the Fort St. George Preſidency, leſt this ſcarcity ſhould hereafter be realized.

The quantity of grain which I have now remaining to be diſpatched from former purchaſes, is as follows:

Loading on the ſhip Haſtings	—	—	bags	10,000
Ditto	—	Creſpigney	—	—	8,500
Ditto	—	Cheſterfield	—	—	4,175
Ditto on Mr. Touchet's veſſels which have been ſurveyed				4,000
Full cargoes, lading on country crafts, and ballaſt laden on				21,596
In ſtore about	—	—	—	11,000
				59,271

I have received four invoices of rice from Mr. Goodlad, Collector of Rungpore, amounting to maunds 18,241, in part of his engagement with government for maunds 1,00,000; the earlieſt of theſe invoices is dated the 11th ultimo, but none of the boats are yet arrived; and the

the Jetting Tree Rivers being already too dry for the paſſage of large boats, I fear, even if theſe are fortunate enough not to be detained, that I ſhall be diſappointed of the remainder in the time when they will be required for loading the greateſt number of country craft which has been engaged, and are now ready, to receive their cargoes. The Sarangs of theſe veſſels, which have not yet received any rice, are extremely urgent for a ſufficient quantity to ballaſt them; I have endeavoured to pacify theſe people, by declaring my expectations daily of ſupplies from up the country; but as all the country craft ought to be diſpatched from hence to Madras by the 1ſt of December, or earlier if poſſible, ſince they would run leſs riſk of falling in with the enemy's cruizers by ſailing early, I think it neceſſary to acquaint you, that rice in Calcutta has now riſen in price to 35 ſeer per rupee, at which rate I do not think it adviſeable to purchaſe any at preſent, or till I am at a greater certainty with reſpect to the diſpatches from Rungpore; yet the neceſſities of the Preſidency of Fort St. George are ſo great, that I cannot defer proceeding for a moment in my ſupplies, without apprizing you of ſo important a circumſtance, leſt it ſhould be aſcribed to a relaxation of that attention which I have conſtantly endeavoured to ſhew to this branch of the public ſervice.

Other grain is not yet riſen in price, I would therefore recommend increaſing the ſupplies thereof, inſtead of rice, until the real ſtate of the latter ſhall be better aſcertained.

I have the honour to encloſe a copy of my caſh account for the laſt month.

I am, with reſpect, &c.

Fort William,
22d October 1782.

(Signed) J. P. AURIOL,
Agent for Supplies to the other Preſidencies.

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, 28th October 1782.

Read the following letter from Fort St. George.

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

The increaſing ſcarcity of grain, and the precarioufneſs, if not impoſſibility, of a ſufficient quantity being imported for ſome time hence, to anſwer the conſumption of the inhabitants of this ſettlement, beſides the neceſſity of our providing a competent ſtore for the army and garriſon, have at length induced us to reſolve to take the management of all ſupplies of proviſions coming hither into our own hands for a certain period, in order that a more equitable diſtribution of them may be made; and we therefore requeſt that you will give notice throughout your Preſidency, and its dependencies, that we have confined to ourſelves the excluſive privilege of purchaſing, on the public account, all good merchantable rice imported here to the 31ſt March next, for which we engage to pay after the rate of pagodas 150 per garce, by bills of exchange on you, at 385 A Rs. per 100 S. pagodas, in caſe it ſhould happen the ſtate of our treaſury will not admit our paying ready money. The preſent appearance of famine calls loudly for our interference, and we doubt not you will heartily co-operate with us in the meaſure we have adopted, which ſeems to us the beſt calculated to alleviate the public diſtreſs, under ſuch œconomical reſtrictions as we ſhall be able to form as ſoon as the plan is put in effect.

We have received a letter bearing date the 21ſt ultimo, from James Daniell, Eſquire, our Chief at Muzalapatam, acquainting us with your having tranſmitted him bills to the amount of 3,30,000 Muzalapatam ſicca rupees, on Gopaul Doſs, and Mokem Loll. It gives us the higheſt ſatisfaction, that you have at laſt been able to accompliſh the mode of remittance you propoſed; and we hope you will be able to extend it to the ſum of 5 or 6 lacks of rupees per month, as you mention in your former letter.

We are, &c.

Fort St. George,
5th October 1782.

MACARTNEY.

The

The Agent of Supplies having been ordered by Mr. Wheler to make out a calculation of the higheſt rates at which rice has been ſhipped for Madras, on Engliſh and country craft, compared with the above rate, now lays before the Board a calculation as follows.

Sir,

In compliance with your directions, I have the honour to furniſh you with a calculation of the average coſt and charges of a bag of rice conſigned to the Preſidency of Fort St. George, at a medium of the higheſt rates which have been given by the Agent, for the freight of Engliſh and country craft; alſo a calculation of the value, in current rupees, which the ſame would yield, at 150 pagodas per garce, and 100 pagodas per 385 Arcot rupees. In order to make a juſt compariſon of the ſame, I have added a charge of 10 per cent. for inſurance, which is the common rate paid upon good veſſels, at the worſt ſeaſon of the year, and upon dhenies or country craft, which only ſail in the fair ſeaſon; but as the Company are their own underwriters, they may be ſaid to gain the profit made by others on the premium I have charged.

I am, &c.

(Signed) J. P. AURIOL,
Agent for Supplies to the other Preſidencies.

Fort William,
26th October, 1782.

Amount of coſt and charges of one bag of rice, valued at 1 Arcot rupee per maund, and freighted to Madraſs, at 5 ſicca rupees per bag, with double gunny bags, mats and commiſſion included, taken on an average from the invoice of the ſhip Nancy, dated 2d September 1783 — — — — Current rupees — 8 15 3

Inſurance, at 10 per cent. — — — 14 3

Total coſt, charges, and riſk — Current rupees 9 13 6

Amount coſt and charges of one bag of rice, valued at 1 Arcot rupee per maund, and freighted to Madraſs on country craft, at 3 ſicca rupees 12 annas per bag, with double gunny bags, mats and commiſſion included, taken on an Average of other invoices — 7 5 10

Inſurance in the fair ſeaſon, 10 per cent. — — — — 11 9

Total coſt, charges, and riſk — Current rupees 8 1 7

Medium of the above — Current rupees 8 15 6

Fort William,
24th October 1782.

J. P. AURIOL, Agent.

One bag of rice, at 150 pagodas per garce, reckoning the garce to be equal to bags 56 16-165ths the exchange of pagodas at 100 per 385 Arcot rupees is worth Ct. Rs. 11 1 9

Medium coſt and charges at Bengal — — 8 15 6

Difference, current rupees — 2 2 3 per bag.

J. P. AURIOL, Agent for Supplies to the Preſidencies.

Agreed, that the following letter be written to Fort St. George.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

We have received your letter of the 5th inſtant.—We are much concerned at the alarming ſcarcity of grain which prevails at your Preſidency, though it was in ſome degree to be expected at this ſeaſon of the year, being immediately antecedent to the fair weather, when the numerous country craft uſually import the bulk of your ſupply; all the veſſels of this port, which could be conſigned to Fort St. George, have been employed in carrying grain thither, either on the

public account, or that of individuals, as private traffic, ſome large ſhips remain yet to be diſpatched; beſides theſe, we underſtand that country craft have been engaged by your orders, and by the endeavours of the Agent of Supplies, equal to the carriage of at leaſt 1,50,000 bags, a part of which is on the eve of departure; we had no other motive in appointing a public agent to furniſh ſupplies to your Preſidency, but to provide in the moſt ample and effectual manner for the conſtant and ſpeedy relief of your neceſſities; and we are aſſured, if your imports have been at any time leſs than your conſumption, it was from the want of ſufficient tonnage at this place to make them greater. It is made the intereſt of the Agent to extend the ſupplies of proviſions for your Preſidency to the utmoſt of his abilities; for this purpoſe, and that of raiſing money when the Treaſury was low, a very handſome commiſſion was granted to the Agent; that commiſſion has been indeed conſiderably reduced, but we imagine the Agent makes ſtill his beſt poſſible exertions to ſupply you. However, ſhould you imagine that rice might be brought to you in a greater quantity, by our diſcontinuing the Agency, and by your granting greater encouragement than the preſent prices of the importers, we ſhall be happy to favour you in any manner, or to adopt any other meaſures, though more expenſive to the Company, that are better ſuited to relieve the dreadful calamities of the famine that preſſes upon your ſettlement.

We earneſtly wiſh the regulation you mean to adopt may be found to anſwer better than the plan already purſued; at preſent it occurs to us, that any limitations which you may place upon the importation of grain, however well guarded or deſigned for the encouragement of it, muſt in ſome reſpect have a contrary tendency: your engroſſing, for the public ſervice, all the grain which ſhall be brought to Madras, will be conſidered as a hardſhip by the original owners; and the mode of payment which you propoſe for it, muſt be a capital objection with many: it will neither anſwer to thoſe who want their money immediately on the ſpot, nor to others who mean to remit it to England, or to any other part of India, your bills not being negociable by ſuch perſons, but at a very heavy diſcount; on the other hand, it would increaſe your calls upon this government, by at leaſt the difference of price given for the grain, which, according to the encloſed calculation, appears conſiderable; and it would further embarraſs us in the payment of your bills of Exchange, which ought in honour to be regularly and punctually diſcharged, but the inſufficiency of our reſources for anſwering all the accumulated demands upon us, renders that not always practicable; whereas, by the preſent mode, advances are iſſued from the Treaſury to the Agent, at ſuch periods as the caſual ſtate of it will admit, and in the mean time he is enabled to continue the ſupplies by private credit.

We conceive that the removal of every real or ideal reſtraint from the freedom of importation, is in general the beſt method of increaſing it. How far this ſyſtem could operate in your preſent ſituation, you muſt certainly be the propereſt judges of, we do not therefore recommend it; permit us (though we have every confidence in your attention to a concern ſo intereſting to humanity) to conjure you not to leave the future diſtribution of the grain, which you have now made a public ſtock, to the charge of any native, or any but a committee of your moſt approved ſervants, with ſome of the principal inhabitants of the place.

We ſtill hope that the gloomy proſpect which preſented itſelf from the apprehended departure of his Majeſty's ſquadron from the coaſt, will aſſume a more favourable appearance; and that the ſupplies deſtined for your Preſidency from hence will arrive in ſafety.

We feel much for the diſtreſſes of the poor inhabitants of Madras; and though there is a proſpect of further liberal contributions from this ſettlement in their favour, yet theſe cannot go far in relieving their wants.

The alarms of famine ſerve to accumulate its diſtreſſes, and embarraſs thoſe managements which are neceſſary to counteract the general evil; you will therefore, we make no doubt, remove thoſe alarms as much as you can.

We are happy to inform you, that our apprehenſions from the want of rain, which lately ſeemed to threaten the harveſt of theſe provinces, are now perfectly removed; for ſome days paſt there has been a conſiderable fall of rain, and rice now ſells at its uſual price.

We have the honour to be, &c.

Fort William,
1ſt November 1782.

EXTRACT

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, the 4th November 1782.

EXTRACT of letter from the Secretary at Fort St. George to Mr. Secretary Auriol, dated the 16th October 1782.

As the Select Committee may be prevented from addreſſing the Governor General and Council by this poſt, I am directed to acquaint you, for their information, that this ſettlement has experienced a new and ſevere misfortune, in conſequence of a gale of wind which came on yeſterday morning, and blew with increaſing violence until midnight; ſeveral large veſſels, and among them the Earl of Hertford Indiaman, were driven on ſhore, others foundered at their anchors, and all the ſmall craft, amounting to upwards of 90, were either ſunk or ſtranded; the quantity of rice loſt is at leaſt 30,000 bags, which is equal to our whole remaining ſtock; and the loſs of the tonnage is irreparable.

Ordered, That the Agent for ſupplies be directed to diſpatch all the country craft which he has engaged to carry grain to Fort St. George as ſoon as poſſible.

Reſolved, that a reward be offered to the Serangs, on their ſafe and ſpeedy arrival at Fort St. George, of 10 pagodahs each, if their paſſage does not exceed 14 days, or 5 pagodas if it does not exceed 20 days; and a further reward of 40 rupees each, upon their return here in time to receive a ſecond cargo this ſeaſon for Madras.

Agreed, That the following letter be written to Fort St. George:

(EXTRACT.)

We have juſt received accounts of the violent gale of wind which you experienced on the 15th ultimo, and of the dreadful effects which it had upon the ſhipping in your roads, and the grain which was then afloat. We have in conſequence ordered the agent for ſupplies to diſpatch all the country craft engaged for your ſervice as ſoon as they can poſſibly be laden; and in order to encourage the Serangs to make the beſt of their way to your port, we have promiſed them ſeverally a reward of 5 pagodas, if they ſhall arrive within 21 days from the date of their diſpatches, or 10 pagodas if they ſhall arrive within 14 days, to be paid at Fort St. George; and a further reward of 40 rupees to be paid here, if they ſhall return in time to make a ſecond trip this ſeaſon.

We requeſt that you will accordingly pay the rewards which we have promiſed to thoſe who may perform the voyage within the time limited. In order to prevent any of thoſe veſſels from ſtopping upon the coaſt in their way down, we have written to the ſeveral ſubordinates, no to ſuffer them to come to an anchor at any of thoſe places.

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, 4th November 1782.

The Secretary reports the arrival of two diſpatches of rice from the Collector of Rungpore, amounting, as per his invoices, to maunds

Theſe having been delivered to the agent for ſupplies, he has received of good rice maunds; bad rice, for which muſters are produced, maunds

Ordered, That the bad rice be rejected by the agent, and returned to Mr. Goodlad's order, as unfit for the purpoſe required.

EXTRACT

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, 11th November 1782.

EXTRACT of Letters from the Preſident and Council of Fort St. George, to the Governor General and Council, dated 17th October 1782.

Vice Admiral Sir Edward Hughes, K. B. having poſitively refuſed to remain on this ſide of India, during the monſoons for the protection of the Honourable Company's poſſeſſions on the coaſt of Coromandel, againſt the deſigns of the enemy's ſquadron; we have thought it a duty incumbent upon us to eſtabliſh further regulations, as the only means left in our preſent exigency to ſecure what we poſſibly can to furniſh a ſtore of grain, and other proviſions, for the conſumption of the garriſon and army; our ſole dependance is upon the ſupplies daily expected, and thoſe which may arrive by veſſels coming during the monſoon. We have accordingly publiſhed an advertiſement, copy of which is herewith encloſed to you, containing ſome alterations from the plan we communicated to you in our letter of the 5th inſtant; and we requeſt you will make our determinations on this ſubject public throughout your Preſidency, and its dependencies.

Notice is therefore hereby given, That all grain, of what kind ſoever, is to be landed under the inſpection of the Garriſon Storekeeper, or his Aſſiſtants, Deputies, or Agents, who will allow the importer to diſpoſe of one ſixth part of ſuch grain in ſuch manner as ſuch importer ſhall think proper, except when any concealment, or diſpoſal of the grain, different from the purport of this regulation, ſhall be attempted, in which caſe the whole will be detained.

The Preſident and Council will allow a greater proportion, to be at the free diſpoſal of ſuch importer, as ſoon as they ſhall be able do to ſo, conſiſtently with the ſafety of the garriſon, which muſt be their firſt care.

Notice is alſo hereby given, That the Preſident will pay at and after the rate of 200 pagodas per garce, for whatever proportion of merchantable rice, out of veſſels coming to anchor in this road, after the firſt day of November next, which they may judged neceſſary to purchaſe for the public ſtock.

A true Copy,

Fort St. George,
12th October 1782. (Signed) CHA. FREEMAN, Secretary.

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, 10th January 1783.

Received the following letter from Fort St. George:

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

We have the honour to acknowledge your letter of the firſt of laſt month.

In our proceedings which ſhall be ſent to you will be found all the methods we judged expedient, and indeed neceſſary, to take, in order to ſecure ſuch a quantity of proviſions for the army, the garriſon, and thoſe perſons whom we ſhould be obliged to retain here in the caſe of a ſiege, as would be ſufficient to maintain them until the return of that ſeaſon in which it was likely that the Admiral might come back with the fleet to the protection of the coaſt, and of the ſupplies by ſea, in which its ſubſiſtence in theſe times entirely depends. The expenditure of grain by the army had been ſo conſiderable, that notwithſtanding the ſupplies furniſhed by the Agent appointed by you in Bengal, we frequently were obliged to purchaſe a proportion of the cargoes brought here for ſale by private traders, as appears by the encloſed return. We in thoſe caſes thought it right to give the ſame price which we had found neceſſary to fix for the ſale of the remainder to individuals. Rice being the common food of the people here, as bread is in England, it was at leaſt as eſſential to ſettle an aſſize for the former article in times of ſcarcity here, as it is for the latter at all times in Europe. It appears, by the calculations you have

tranſmitted

tranſmitted to us, that the aſſize we ſettled left a reaſonable profit to the importer, without allowing his avidity to be indulged to a degree that might be fatal to the poor. But ſo far from our occaſional purchaſes implying any intention on our part that you ſhould ceaſe to ſend us grain by an Agent, or otherwiſe, that in many letters from hence, and particularly in that of the 11th September laſt, from the Select Committee, this government requeſted the continuance and encreaſe of thoſe ſupplies from you; and we had ſo much the more reaſon ſo to do, that all the proviſion ſent here on a public and private account did not prevent the actual exiſtence of a famine. We were obliged to take meaſures for the departure of many of the inhabitants of Madras in ſearch of that ſubſiſtence which they could not procure here. The alarm occaſioned by the determination of the Admiral to leave theſe ſeas open to the enemy made it neceſſary to allow for a time an extraordinary gain, in order to induce traders to riſk their veſſels and cargoes to the double danger of the monſoon and of the enemy; and it was reſolved to pay at the rate of 200 pagodas per garce for rice imported from the 1ſt of November to the twentieth of December. We have reaſon to think that this increaſe of price was adequate to the increaſed riſk, and it has been found a ſufficient inducement to incur it, though we were ſtrongly ſolicited by many of the inhabitants, in a public addreſs, to raiſe the price to three hundred pagodas per garce. Rice is ſomewhat leſs ſcarce and dear than when laſt we wrote to you; but we repeat our requeſt, that you will be pleaſed to ſend us as large quantities as you can procure tonnage for, which we deſire, becauſe the ſupply of private traders is always precarious, and that it is likely you may ſend it to us on cheaper terms, than we can reaſonably expect from individuals, who muſt live by the profit they gain upon it. With a view to both theſe objects, we contracted laſt year with Captain Mercer for four cargoes of rice, at 130 pagodas per garce, on the conſideration of bringing, without any additional charge, whatever treaſure you ſhould put on board his veſſel for this Preſidency, for which, deducting the freight uſually paid for the carriage of treaſure, reduces the rice by him to a cheaper rate, as by the calculation encloſed, than the rice purchaſed by your agent, notwithſtanding the profit the contractor muſt be ſuppoſed to have upon his bargain.

We placed no other limitations on the importation of grain, than fixing the price at which we meant to purchaſe it; and when it is conſidered that 150 pagodas per garce is about double the average price of rice in time of peace, that price will be thought, except in the ſhort intervals of joint danger from the weather and the enemy, during which we raiſed it, fully ſufficient to encourage individuals to import it. Your calculations prove the profit made by it at the higheſt allowance of freight, and you ſeem to think the price at leaſt as high as it ought to be; the mode of payment was ſuch as was in our power. If bills were as little in our power as ſpecie, we ſhould have been obliged ſtill to take the rice to ſubſiſt the army and garriſon. They muſt be fed, wherever food could be found, whether payment followed it, or not. The exchange upon bills was above the real par, and thoſe bills were therefore no loſs to thoſe who remitted them: if from the number of ſuch bills thoſe who negotiated them were obliged to ſell them at a diſcount, it was a loſs which the profit was ſuppoſed able to bear; but the exchange has ſince been rendered ſtill more favourable to the importer of rice.

We concur perfectly with you in your opinion of the advantage of freeing all kind of trade from all reſtraint; and are happy that you foreſaw the poſſibility that our ſituation might require a deviation from this rule, which was really the caſe in the only inſtance in which we have made it, that of ſecuring ſuch a quantity of grain as was abſolutely neceſſary for public uſe, which neceſſarily required us to fix an aſſize or price for what we took, as the dread of an appoaching famine led individuals to offer any ſum to obtain a preference before the public.

Our proceedings will ſatisfy you that we did not leave the diſtribution of the grain in our public ſtock to the charge of any native. We had appointed a committee to prevent abuſes in the ſale of grain in the market, of which the third in Council was the chief. Several of the Company's ſervants have been employed to ſuperintend the landing, weighing, and diſtribution of the rice for the publick ſtock. The ſecond in council took a very zealous and active part in this department; and our Preſident has been himſelf to the beach, to be a witneſs of a buſineſs which the proſpect of a famine and a ſiege rendered of ſo much conſequence.

We have entered into theſe particulars, in the ardent deſire we feel to ſatisfy you as to the propriety of every part of our conduct.

We have the honour to be, &c.

Fort St. George,
21ſt December 1782.

(Signed) MACARTNEY, &c. Members.

EXTRACT

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, the 3d February 1783.

Read a Letter, as follows from the Agent for Supplies.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

Having examined the account or calculation received from the Preſidency of Fort St. George, which you have been pleaſed to tranſmit to me for my remarks upon it, I beg leave to acquaint you, that the computation of the coſt and charges of one bag of rice, ſupplied to that Preſidency, which I delivered in to your Honourable Board on the 20th October, was formed profeſſedly to be contraſted with the price which, by public advertiſement, had been offered by that government for all rice, which ſhould be imported at Madras.

It was formed at a time when rice began to grow ſcarce in Calcutta, and was rated upon the higheſt and moſt liberal ſcale that the occaſion admitted, to prevent any exceptions from being taken againſt it for unfairneſs, by the Gentlemen at Madras, to whom I judged it would be tranſmitted. I further added, but in ſpeculation, the higheſt premium for inſurance that I knew had been paid, although the Company never inſure; and although, by extending and dividing their riſk, they may be ſuppoſed to ſave as much of this premium as would be gained by the Underwriters in caſes of inſurances.

I made theſe allowances to ſhew, that at the higheſt rate at which the coſt and charges could be computed, they ſtill fell far ſhort of the prices given by the Government at Madras, which, at that time being 150 pagodas per garce, the difference appeared to be current rupees 2. 2. 3 per bag; within a ſhort time afterwards, from the effects of the ſtorm, it was augmented to 200 pagodas per garce, which increaſed the difference to current rupees 5. 13. 6 per bag.

My calculation having been formed in conſequence of your orders, and for this particular purpoſe, I little thought it would have been made a different uſe of, and the liberal latitude which I had given it turned to prove a fact againſt myſelf; but this being the caſe, I am happy that you have now given me an opportunity to correct my former account, and to make the calculation upon a more exact principle. With this view, I have compiled a liſt of all the public conſignments of rice which have been made by me to the Preſidency of Madras, from the time the ſeaſon opened on the 1ſt of Auguſt laſt, till the end of the year, when I was prevented, by your orders, from engaging more veſſels.

Within this period I diſpatched 264,310 bags of rice, amounting, with all charges included, according to the invoices, which I delivered to the Accountant General, to current rupees 15,32,996. 60. to Ct. Rs. 7. 8, and no more, for each bag, of two pecks a maund. It follows, therefore, that at a time when the Public was paying 150 and 200 pagodas per garce for rice at Madras, where the extraordinary demand for it had neceſſarily enhanced the price both of the rice and freight at this place, I ſupplied them with the immenſe quantity above mentioned, except inſurance, at 7' C. Rs. per bag, although I purchaſed it under the diſadvantages of great competition, the certain failure of the preſent crop.

I reſt my aſſertion on this fact; and ſhall only annex a ſhort ſtatement, to ſhew what the ſame rice, tranſported by private merchants, would have been ſold for to the Company, at the rate eſtabliſhed, and allowed rates.

From a ſuperficial view of the Madras accounts, it may appear to have been an advantage to the Public, that Captain Mercer's rice was, by his contract, to be delivered free of boat hire, &c. at Fort St. George; but to thoſe who are well acquainted with the difficulty of lading ſo great a number of cargoes at Madras, as were conſtantly there, with ſuch a deficiency of boats, and the delay conſequently ſuffered by all the veſſels which were laden, as well on public as private account, except Captain Mercer's, it will rather appear that the preference ſhewn to him in point of early diſpatch was an advantage to the individual, which any one of the commanders in the Roads would gladly have purchaſed from him, at double the expence of landing his cargo, for the ſake of making an additional trip.

The deduction of 3 per cent. upon the amount of treaſure tranſported to Madras by Captain Mercer, in his ſhip the Reſolution, for which credit is given him, ought by no means to be admitted into the account. In the firſt place, it is more than ever was paid for freight of treaſure upon

upon any merchant veſſels, and only lately eſtabliſhed for his Majeſty's ſhips; which, on account of their ſuperior force in men, and their trim for ſailing, are undoubtedly ſafer than the Reſolution; neither is any deduction made for it for the 7,500 Rs. paid to Captain Mercer, as a Conſideration for his leaving out 1,500 bags of his intended cargo for the ſecurity of the Treaſurer; nor for his preſent claim to a conſiderable average on the goods which he was obliged to throw over board in a little wind. In the ſecond place, there were Company's ſhips conſtantly going to Madras, by which the treaſure might have been ſent freight free, nor is there a country veſſel, I believe, from this Port, the Commander of which, in times of public calamity, like the preſent, would refuſe to carry treaſure for the relief of the Carnatic upon ſimilar terms. The Britannia is an inſtance where it has been carried, and the freight, though it would have been allowed, relinquiſhed.

Let it be further conſidered, that the contract with Captain Mercer was formed by the Preſidency of Fort St. George, at a time when the ſcarcity of grain at that place was not near ſo alarming as in any part of the ſaid period comprehended within the date of my calculation; at a time when the bay was perfectly clear of the enemy's ſhips, at a time when the crops in Bengal had afforded more abundant harveſts of grain than uſual, and at an increaſe upon the market price, of the period in which the contract was concluded; for theſe reaſons, it was by no means fair to compare it with a calculation made for different ſeaſons, a reverſed ſituation, and upon ſuch liberal grounds as the object to which mine was directed, moſt amply gave room for; nor, indeed, to compare it with the actual ſupplies for this ſeaſon, which fluctuated according to the circumſtances of the times; for in ſuch caſe, had the contract appeared more favourable, (which, according to my preſent calculation, I truſt is fully refuted) it could only have evinced that Captain Mercer was unfortunate in being bound by a contract to deliver rice for a lower rate than that which individuals received for it without a contract.

Upon the whole, I can aver that my ſupplies have been furniſhed with the greateſt attention to œconomy and regularity; and that I have acted with greater effect than I ſhould have done as a private Agent, becauſe I knew that more depended upon my endeavours: I have therefore been conſtantly in advance for the public ſervice much more than appears by my monthly accounts, becauſe moſt of the grain, and all the country tonnage, is procured by long and previous payments, but cannot be charged without confuſion until the period of diſpatch, when the invoices are made out. In proof of my declaration, I beg leave to aſſure you, as a fact, of the ſtricteſt veracity, that I have borrowed monies for this purpoſe on my own bond, which are now owing, to the amount of near 3 lacks of rupees.

I have, &c.

Fort William,
31ſt January 1783.

(Signed) J. P. AURIOL,
Agent for Supplies to the other Preſidencies.

STATEMENT referred to in the foregoing Letter; viz.

264,310 bags of rice, at 56 16-116ths bags to the garce, and 150 pagodas per garce, reckoning the Exchange at 100 pagodas per 385, Coſt C. Rs				22,69,756	6 6
204,310 bags of rice, Invd at Ct R. — —			15,32,996	6	
Add 1 per cent. for charges of landing, &c. at Madras			1,53,299	8 6	
				17,61,625	8 3
	Different — C. P.			5,68,130	14 3
204,310 Bags of rice at 200 pagodas per garce, would coſt — C. Rs.				30,26,341	14 —
Real amount, as above — — — —				17,04,625	8 3
	Difference — C. Rs.			13,24,716	5 9

N. B. In the above Quantity I have neither included the Company's chartered ſhips, nor Mr. Touchet's veſſels.

I muſt

I muſt alſo remark, that the ſcale of calculation is ſtill favourable to the Madras Preſidency, being made by my former ſtandard; whereas the ſame number of bags, according to the rule which they have obſerved, in ſtating 25,091 bags delivered by Captain Mercer, to be equal to 450 garce, would yield 3,664¼ garce, which at the price of 200 pagodas per garce, would produce pagodas 7,32,856, or current rupees 30,47,195. 11.

(Signed) J. P. AURIOL.

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, the 11th February 1782.

The following Poſtſcript of a Letter from the Select Committee at Fort St. George, under date the 4th ultimo, is referred from the Secret to this Department.

P. S. of a Letter from Fort St. George, dated the 4th January 1782.

" Encloſed we ſend you a letter which we have received from our garriſon ſtorekeeper, which " we think merits your conſideration, and therefore ſubmit it to you for that purpoſe; we " ſhall take an early opportunity of writing to you upon the ſubject, but in the mean time " wiſh to expreſs, that rice, money, and gun powder, are the principal articles of which we " ſtand in immediate want; the others we can be ſupplied with here on cheaper terms."

EXTRACT of a Letter from Mr. Brodie, Garriſon Storekeeper at Fort St. George, to the Preſident and Council, dated

I beg leave to take this opportunity of repreſenting to your Lordſhip, that the rice conſigned from the Honourable the Governor General and Council to this Government is inferior in quality to almoſt all the private cargoes imported here; and that as the bills of lading for the cargoes ſhipped on board the Indiamen are not ſigned for the weight, the Captains do not conceive themſelves anſwerable for the quantity expreſſed in the invoices; in conſequence of which a very conſiderable loſs ariſes on the delivery of their cargoes.

I flatter myſelf that your Lordſhip will forgive the freedom with which I have, unaſked for on this occaſion, delivered my ſentiments.

Ordered, That the Secretary do inform Mr. Touchet, that the Preſident and Council at Madras, have repreſented that they ſhall not have occaſion for the live ſtock which he has agreed to tranſport thither; that it be propoſed to him to annul his contract for theſe articles; and that he be deſired to inform the Board on what terms he will agree to relinquiſh it.

The Agent for Supplies having been called upon for an explanation of the circumſtances alluded to by the Garriſon Storekeeper at Fort St. George, ſent in the following Letter on the 8th inſtant.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

I have received the Extract from the Garriſon Storekeeper's Letter at Fort St. George, which you have been pleaſed to refer to me for my explanation; in conſequence of which I have the honour to inform you, that it is a common practice on board of ſhips, as ſoon as the rice is delivered to ſtart it out of their bags, for the convenience of ſtowage, and to pack it up again for the purpoſe of landing it at Madras; this being the caſe, and the Captains having often an intereſt in the quality of their cargo, either by carrying rice directly on their own account, or in joint concern for others, it is not unreaſonable to ſuppoſe that they will rather conſider themſelves than the Company, both in the ſtowage and re-package, eſpecially when the kind of grain is of the ſame denomination, and a mixture cannot be effectually guarded againſt; but I can aver, that the rice ſhipped on the Company's account has always been of prime quality, allowing for the ſeaſons of the year at which it was purchaſed, as both my Agents and myſelf have made it a rule to chooſe the beſt in the market, and we have had naturally a preference to individuals, reſulting from the extent of our dealings; I have therefore good rea-

ſon

ſon to ſuppoſe that the rice purchaſed for the Company was at leaſt equal, if not ſuperior, to moſt of that belonging to private merchants. I have reſerved muſters of every cargo which has been diſpatched for ſome months paſt, and entreat that the Honourable Board will be pleaſed to inſpect them, in order to be convinced of the truth of my aſſertion; counterparts of theſe muſters have been uniformly ſent to Madras by every ſhip; and if the deliveries fell ſhort of them, it was in the power of the proper officer there to enquire into the cauſe upon the ſpot, and in caſe of neceſſity they ought to have repreſented the particular inſtances of failure, that they might have been ſtated to you; but a general charge of this nature is too vague, I conceive, to be refuted, otherwiſe than by general aſſertion.

With reſpect to the objections made to the bills of lading for the cargoes, ſhipped on board the Indiamen, becauſe the Captains had not ſigned for any ſpecific weight, I have to acquaint the Board, that in conſequence of their orders a large quantity of rice was ſent down the river ſome time before the arrival of the Indiamen, to wait for them at Kejeree; that the ſaid rice remained a long time in the ſloops upon demurage, and when the Indiamen arrived there, and were ready to receive it on board, it was delivered immediately from the ſloops, without the poſſibility of weighing, for the ſatisfaction of the Captains, who conſequently declined being anſwerable for the weight; and the bills of lading, for the ſake of diſpatch, were obliged to be ſent down to be filled up and executed below, becauſe it could not be previouſly aſcertained what quantity would be actually ſhipped on board.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Fort William,
6th February 1782. (Signed) J. P. AURIOL,
Agent for Supplies to the other Preſidencies.

The following letter was written to the Preſident and Select Committee at Fort St. George.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

We have received your letters of the 9th and 13th ultimo by the Reſolution, together with a duplicate of your letter of the 4th ultimo, yet the original of which, by the Active, is not arrived.

We are concerned to ſee, by the letter from your garriſon ſtorekeepers, which you appear to have adopted, that our moſt anxious endeavours to relieve your ſettlement from the imminent diſtreſſes to which you were reduced, ſhould be found fault with

Our only motive for concluding a contract with Mr. Touchet to ſupply your garriſon with bullocks, ſheep, and ſalt proviſions, in which we had nothing but your intereſt in view, was to prevent that grievous calamity, which, from your own repreſentations, and from every account brought from Madraſs at that time, we had too much reaſon to apprehend would follow the alarming ſcarcity of every ſpecies of proviſions which prevailed there.

In your letter of 1ſt April laſt you informed us, "That you feared the want of the 400 caſks of "ſalt proviſions we had contracted for to be delivered to you in that month would be ſeverely "felt by the army and your garriſon, as you had only 100 caſks then in ſtore."

We know that your wants would be increaſed by the reinforcement of Europeans which you afterwards received from Bombay and from this Preſidency; and that no further means had been taken to provide for thoſe occaſions, than by a compliance with your former indent, which was in the courſe of being effected before the date of the above letter. You had written to us repeatedly in the moſt preſſing terms for aſſiſtance of every kind; and the extreme diſtreſs of the inhabitants of your ſettlement, cauſed by a dearth of every neceſſary of life, was deſcribed in ſuch affecting terms, from all quarters, that we thought no exertions on our part could exceed your neceſſity. Under ſuch circumſtances, and conſidering the dangerous predicaments to which you might have been reduced in the event of an enemy's fleet commanding the roads at Madras, we expected to have deprived a merit from any attempt which was likely to ſave you from the impending evil; and nothing but the exigency of your ſituation could have induced us to divert ſo large a part of our own reſources from the other preſſing demands to which we might have applied it.

Your neceſſities now being leſs urgent than they were then, by the country's being free to afford thoſe ſupplies to your ſettlement, without which it could not have exiſted, although a fortunate change could not be foreſeen at the time when the forces of Hyder were ravaging the environs of Madras, and deſtroying every thing they could lay their hands on, up to the very gates of your garriſon; it cannot be brought in oppoſition to the propriety of the contracts we had engaged in with Mr. Touchet. However, as it appears from the letter now before us, that you can diſpenſe with the Live Stock which he was bound to deliver at Fort St. George, we have propoſed to him that his engagement for the article ſhall be cancelled. The ſtyle and tenor of your ſtorekeeper's letter too ſtrongly inſinuate the reproach of an advantage taken of your diſtreſſes, to ſerve an individual; and a compariſon is drawn between the coaſt of ſupplies propoſed under great difficulties, and by untried means, for your relief, at a time when no coſt could procure them on the ſpot, with that of providing them under a more proſperous ſituation of your affairs, which may have afforded you the means of ſupplying yourſelves. We ſhall not obtrude on you our aſſiſtance: and our future aids of every kind ſhall be regulated by your expreſs requiſitions, to the extent of our ability to anſwer them; but you ſubject us to a reſerve by theſe diſcouragements, which, though it cannot ſlacken our zeal to afford you ſervice, may weaken its effects, and eventually deprive you of that complete ſupport which our government is able and deſirous to give you.

With reſpect to the quality of the grain which you have received in conſignment from us, we have called on the agent to account for the inferiority which your ſtorekeeper complains of; and encloſed you will receive a copy of his reply.

In order to prevent the evil in future which the agent ſuggeſts, we have directed him to pack up the rice looſely in bags, and affix the Company's ſeal to every bag which may be ſhipped, forbidding the Captains to open them during the paſſage; but as a ſealed muſter of each cargo was ſent to you with every diſpatch, it ought to have been the duty of your ſtorekeeper, who had it in his power, to ſee that the quality of the deliveries correſpond with the muſter, and in caſe of any difference to ſettle it on the ſpot.

In conſequence of your particular deſire, ſloops were diſpatched to wait at Kedjeree with cargoes of rice till the arrival of the Europe ſhips; after remaining there a conſiderable time on demurrage the ſhips arrived, and the rice was delivered on board without delay, but could not be weighed off in that ſituation, and the Captains of courſe declined ſigning their bills of lading for any ſpecific weight; we muſt therefore aſcribe whatever deficiency may have happened to the above cauſes, as the waſte of keeping grain is conſiderable.

Read a Letter, as follows, from Mr. Touchet.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

I am honoured with your commands of the 5th Inſtant, and will readily conſent to the contract for ſuppling live ſtock for the uſe of the Preſidency of Fort St. George being annulled, provided the Board will be pleaſed to order the veſſels prepared for that ſervice to be immediately loaded with rice on the terms of freight already agreed to; ſo that as many of them as poſſible may proceed on their voyage before the 25th of this month, till which time they may ſail in the utmoſt ſafety, upon a certainty of light winds, and favourable currents, as ſoon as they ſhall be clear of the river.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Calcuta,
7th February 1782. (Signed) SAMUEL TOUCHET.

Agreed to the terms propoſed by Mr. Touchet for cancelling his contract; and

Ordered, That the agent for ſupplies do immediately load with rice as many of his veſſels as may be ready to ſail by the 25th inſtant,

EXTRACT

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, 18th February 1783.

Read the letters from the the Honourable the Court of Directors under the following Dates.

30th April 1782.
18th June,
12th July,
28th Auguſt.

Ordered, That the paragraphs of theſe letters reſpecting the other departments, be diſtributed as uſual.

On paragraph 45, &c. of the letter of the 12th July, it is reſolved and ordered, that the commiſſion drawn by the Agent of Supplies to the Foreign Preſidencies do ceaſe immediately.

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, 24th February 1783.

Read a letter, as follows, from the Agent for Supplies.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

I have had the honour to receive your orders, founded on the commands of the Honourable the Court of Directors, dated 12th July laſt, for putting an end to my commiſſion on the ſupplies to the other Preſidencies; as they are pleaſed to direct that this buſineſs ſhall in future be performed by contract.

In compliance with your directions I had ſent down all the grain neceſſary for loading Mr. Touchet's veſſels, which were ready before the 20th inſtant, and had purchaſed rice for loading the Company's ſhips bound to Madras and Bombay, a great part of which is already on board; after this ſervice is accompliſhed I ſhall conſider my office aboliſhed; and in order to prevent confuſion in accounts, I beg leave to propoſe, with your approbation, to adjuſt my diſburſements andc ommiſſionfi nally with the invoices of theſe diſpatches, and to receive an order for the balance which may then appear to be due to me.

It is poſſible I may not meet with univerſal credit, if I attempt to draw a compariſon between the actual rates of my agency; and thoſe of a probable contract; and this is a ſubject which perhaps I could not write upon without a biaſs: my original propoſal was either for a contract or an agency; the Board thought it preferable to adopt the latter. The neceſſary ſupplies to Fort St. George have exceeded all expectation formed at that time, and the extent of them has rendered the Agency an object of ſuch magnitude as it is, though leſs in fact than it appears to be, as I have explained in former letters, from the conſiderable private loans which I have taken up to ſupport it, and the accumulation of intereſt upon them; I do not urge this now as an objection, but merely to ſet the matter in its proper light.

Whatever my pretenſions might have have been, from long and faithful ſervices in a laborious line of duty, I beg leave to acknowledge, with great gratitude to my ſuperiors, that I feel the obligation of my reward, I am truly ſenſible of my duty to the public intereſts, and from a pure and diſintereſted wiſh to promote them to the utmoſt of my abilities, I am induced to make an offer of my ſervices in the preſent critical and neceſſitous time, to continue furniſhing the ſupplies which are ſo very eſſential to the exiſtence of the inhabitants at Fort St. George from the preſent ſeaſon, or till the 31ſt of December next, without any commiſſion or advantage whatſoever to myſelf, and to ſuch extent as you may judge it expedient to grant me the reſources for. I hope it is unneceſſary to add, that I ſhall do it upon the eaſieſt terms which may be procurable, and deliver my accounts monthly as at preſent, upon honour, or under ſuch obligation as you think it proper to lay upon me.

For this offer I have no ſiniſter motive, nor any object in view but the public benefit, to which I am actuated by a zealous attachment to the Company, in whoſe ſervice I have riſen to my preſent ſtation, and to the true intereſts of my country, as a faithful ſubject of it; and I make

make the offer becauſe the Preſident and Council at Fort St. George, in their letters of the 11th September and 21ſt December, and others, have repeatedly requeſted, that this government would continue and increaſe the public ſupplies to them; and in the laſt they ſay, "We repeat "our requeſt, that you will be pleaſed to ſend us as large quantities as you can procure tonnage "for, which we deſire, becauſe the ſupply of private traders is always precarious, and that it "is likely you may ſend it to us on cheaper terms than we can reaſonably expect from the indi- "viduals, who muſt live by the profit they gain upon it."

I have the honour to be, &c.

Calcutta,
24th February 1783 (Signed) J. P. AURIOL.

Ordered, That this letter lie for conſideration.

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, the 3d March 1783.

Reſolved, That the letter from the Agent for Supplies, recorded in conſultation 3d ultimo, be ſent with the following letter to Madraſs.

Gentlemen,

Having referred the ſtatement, which we received incloſed in your letter of the 21ſt December laſt, to the Agent for Supplies, with directions to furniſh us with ſuch remarks upon it as occurred to him, in caſe he ſaw any objections to the compariſon drawn between his ſupplies of grain to your Preſidency and the contract made with Captain Mercer, we received from him a letter, which we think fully deſtroys the force of that compariſon; we therefore tranſmit you a copy of it, and muſt, at the ſame time, add our acquieſcence in the arguments ſet forth, as they appear to be eſtabliſhed on good grounds, and to contain the natural deductions from ſuch premiſes.

We are, &c.

Fort William,
3d March 1783.

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, the 6th March 1783.

Par. 41 to 44. Ordered, That copies of theſe paragraphs be ſent to Mr. Auriol.

Ordered, as preparatory to any meaſures that the Board may hereafter reſolve to adopt for the ſupply of Madras, that the Accomptant General do prepare an account, ſpecifying the average rate at which all the ſupplies of rice furniſhed by the agent have ſtood the Company here, not including the ſhips on which no freight has been paid.

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, the 20th March 1783.

Read a letter, as follows, from the Accomptant General.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

As it would require much time to aſcertain the average rate by which all the ſupplies of rice, furniſhed by the agent of ſupplies to the other preſidencies, have ſtood the Company at this place, not including thoſe ſhips on which no freight has been paid, by reaſon of ſeveral of the invoices containing grain and other articles, the charge of lading which are blended together, ſo that on all ſuch invoices, to aſcertain the exact coſts of the rice, it would be neceſſary

ſary to compute, by the rule of proportion, the charge of lading each particular article contained in thoſe invoices, a mode which is at beſt but vague, which could not be followed without much loſs of time, and which might not produce any material difference in an average of the whole; therefore beg leave to ſuggeſt to the Honourable Board the expediency of my confining this account to thoſe invoices which contain merely rice; and that it may likewiſe not be extended to what was laden on Mr. Touchet's Veſſels, as that would prevent me from compleating it, until it was aſcertained what was further due to Mr. Touchet, for the additional freight of eight annas per bag, agreed to be given to him for what was actually delivered by him at Madras.

I have, &c.

Fort William,
Accomptant General's Office,
the 15th March 1783.

(Signed) Wm. LARKINS.
Accomptant General.

Agreed to; and ordered, that the Accomptant General do calculate the average price of rice ſent to Madras in the manner he propoſes.

Read a letter, as follows, from Mr. Killican.

Honourable Sir, and Gentlemen,

I beg permiſſion to ſubmit to your conſideration the following propoſals for delivering a ſupply of grain at the Preſidency of Fort St. George, on account the Honourable Company, at the end of the preſent year, and the beginning of the next.

I will engage to ſhip fifty thouſand bags of good and approved cargo rice, on good ſnows and donies, agreeable to muſters which have been approved by the Governor General and Council, or any perſon by them appointed for that purpoſe, and to deliver the ſame to your order at Fort St. George, at the rate of eight ſicca rupees per bag, in the months of November, December, and January next, the riſque of capture, when the veſſels ſhall have been laden, being the Honourable Company's; the riſque of the ſeas I will take upon myſelf. I will likewiſe engage, that if the average price of good cargo rice at Fort St. George, in the months of November, December, and January next, ſhould be under eight rupees per bag, I will make good the difference, and pay the ſame here.

The periods of payment for the rice which I furniſh, I requeſt may be as follows: One third when the contract is ſigned, one third the firſt of September, and the remaining third when the veſſels are ready to ſail, and the bills of lading have been delivered.

I am ready to give any ſecurity for the regular performance of my engagements, that the Honourable Board may require.

I have, &c.

Fort William,
28th February 1783.

(Signed) DAVID KILLICAN.

Ordered, That Mr. Killican be informed, that the Board cannot accept his propoſals, &c.

Reſolved, That public notice be given, that the Board will receive propoſals for contracting to ſupply the Preſidency of Fort St. George with rice, in the courſe of the enſuing ſeaſon (that is to ſay) from the 1ſt of Auguſt 1783, to the 31ſt May 1784.

The propoſals to be delivered in ſealed to the Secretary (with the words on the outſide of the little propoſals, for delivering the rice at Madras) on or before the 10th April next; after which time none will be received.

The riſque of capture by the enemy to be on account the Company, the dangers of the ſea to be on account the contractors. Advances equal to one third of the amount of each contract, to be iſſued to the contractors on the due execution of the deeds of contract; one third of the amount of each invoice on the delivery of the bill of lading at the Accomptant General's Office, and the remaining third on producing certificates of the delivery of the whole cargo at Fort St. George. The propoſals to ſpecify the quantity of merchantable cargo rice which the propoſed will engage for, and the price per bag (of two buzar maunds, of 160 lb. weight) at

which he will undertake to deliver it on the ſea beach at Fort St. George, excepting the riſque of enemies, as above mentioned.

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, the 1ſt April 1783.

Received the following letter from the Agent for ſupplies.

Gentlemen,

I have been honoured by the official receipt of copies of the 41ſt, 42d, 43d, and 44th paragraphs of the general letter from the Court of Directors, dated 12th July 1782, concerning my late agency.

I cannot help being ſtruck with the deepeſt concern, at finding that I have been the inſtrument of an appointment, which ſtands annulled by the Honourable the Court of Directors, with ſuch ſevere epithets of diſapprobation; and I beg leave to expreſs my acknowledgments to you, for affording me a further opportunity of endeavouring to remove their objections, which appear to have been obviouſly taken from the premiſes then before me, unoppoſe by ſufficient explanations or teſtimonies of its good effect, which, I truſt, the preſent experience of it will juſtify. The commiſſion was undoubtedly very high, before your Honourable Board thought fit to reduce it; and the Honourable Court of Directors paſs their judgment upon it in its original ſtate. They were naturally ſtruck with the ſum, becauſe it is certain that the groſs, &c. undiminiſhed amount of any commiſſion, fixed at a ſpecific rate, ſo ſtriking to the obſervation, while the drawbacks upon it, and the inſtances of its utility, are various and imperceptible, until poſitively pointed out and defined. This is the chief object of the preſent letter.

At the time when the appointment was made, it was hoped and expected that the moſt material duties of it, being the ſupply of the Preſidency of Fort St. George, would be of ſhort duration, and of no very conſiderable extent. I muſt declare, for my own part, that this was my opinion of it. The rate of commiſſion had many precedents, both of old and recent eſtabliſhment, to warrant it, which I could enumerate, and I believe was founded on the ſame principles with them; yet it has always ſuſtained ſeveral deductions from it, eſpecially before you reduced it. I beg leave to enumerate the following:—I have maintained a conſtant eſtabliſhment of Clerks and Agents at my own expence; I have at different times ſent down European overſeers, entertained at high wages, to ſuperintend the loading of the Europe ſhips, and other ſervices which required ſuperior management and attention, at my own expence. The number of Agents, of different kinds, employed by me, was neceſſarily great; but I have charged only for ſuch as were immediately ſtationed at the Company's fixed golahs, or caſually employed in weighing off and ſhipping particular invoices, according to the ordinary cuſtom of merchants; and as long as the original commiſſion was allowed me, I never made any charge for the commiſſion of factors or Agents whom I employed in diſtant parts. Mr. Hamilton, at Corinja, for inſtance, ſecured a large quantity of the country tonnage for me at that place, charging me 5 per cent commiſſion upon that amount, for his trouble in the firſt ſeaſon; which, while my own commiſſion would bear it, I conſidered as juſtly allowable out of it. For the preſent ſeaſon, I agreed to pay him commiſſion upon ſuch tonnage only as he could procure under a certain price: This I have thought it neceſſary to charge to the Company, becauſe my own commiſſion had been reduced.

The above circumſtances ſhould be weighed in the general ſcope of reaſoning upon this ſubject; but a ſtill more important conſideration ſtarts up, which the Honourable Court of Directors could not have been acquainted with: I mean the heavy charge of intereſt which I have ſuſtained, to prevent the public from ſuffering, at times, greater loſſes and greater inconveniences than any poſſible amount of my commiſſion. If it be urged, that by diſburſing more than my advances from the treaſury, I ſecured an ultimate benefit to myſelf, I reply, that with poſitive injunctions to carry my ſupplies to an unlimited extent, it was impoſſible to confine myſelf to my advances, without a manifeſt neglect of the public intereſts; becauſe both the periods and ſums of my advances were always uncertain, while my engagements were neceſſarily fixed and poſitive. Had I omitted to take early meaſures, through proper Agents on the coaſt, to make timely advances to the owners of veſſels on account of freight, in order to ſecure

as much tonnage as poſſible to be brought to me here, and had I waited the arrival of theſe veſſels which would have come under engagements to others, or have been ſent on ſpeculation for freight, I might, indeed, have been guided in the amount of my diſburſements by that of my advances; but I ſhould have paid a much higher rate for the ſame articles, and very ſcantily have fulfilled the object deſigned by my appointment. In ſhort, with all my ſtrenuous and poſſible exertions, it does not appear that the Preſidency of Madras was ever abundantly ſupplied with grain, but continually craving for more.

No Agent, without an adequate compenſation to anſwer the intereſt of money borrowed by him, and the riſk of failure in the diſcharge of his occaſional loans, could afford to ſtrain his own credit for the public ſervice, in default of regular advances from the Treaſury; yet if I had declined this alternative, the ſettlement of Madras might, and probably would, have ſuffered the moſt diſmal effects of a famine (which, as it was, could hardly be kept from raging) the Company's and other ſhips engaged for their ſervice, would have lain upon demurrage for want of cargoes to load them, and ſeveral of them muſt have loſt the ſeaſon for want of an expeditious diſpatch. In fact I muſt repeat, that, beſides all the property which I could command of my own, I have continually taken up loans from my friends, to the utmoſt extent of my credit, and the whole of which was inveſted in the buſineſs of my Agency. Although the full amount does not appear, by the monthly balance of my accounts, to form a juſt idea of it at any ſpecific period, the ſums paid by me for the freight of veſſels, or for grain not invoiced (all grain, both here and at Buckergunge, being purchaſed only for ready money) ought to be added to the balance of my monthly account, or ſet againſt it, and will then ſhew the actual ſum which I was in advance; but to aſcertain this regularly, for ſuch a length of time, would be an arduous, if not impracticable taſk, conſidering the magnitude of the concern, the infinite variety of purchaſes made, the multifarious diſtributions of them on veſſels, and the numberleſs caſualties which happened in ſuch an extenſive buſineſs, from the return of the veſſels, and many other cauſes: However, I am happy to hear that the Honourable Board have ordered the Accomptant General to report to them a ſtate of the average price of my ſupplies the whole period of my Agency, as the ſureſt teſt of compariſon to prove the advantage which the public has derived from it.

This advantage will be the more apparent, when meaſured by the ſcale of private merchants here, who, if they employ Agents or Factors, muſt ſubmit to pay a commiſſion of 5 per cent. according to the cuſtom of the place, upon the diſpatch from hence, and a further commiſſion of 5 per cent, upon the ſale at Madras, which laſt commiſſion is drawn upon a much larger ſum than the amount of the invoice, being on the amount of the groſs ſale, the net produce of which, after deducting that, and all other charges, ſtill leaves ſuch a profit to the owner, that every individual who has engaged to any extent in the grain trade to the coaſt, is known to have gained conſiderably by it.

The Company have not only derived a greater profit by the immediate difference of value, from having had a more extenſive concern than any individual, but in a political light they have ſecured reſources for the pay and ſubſiſtence of their army, and evidently provided for the ſalvation of the country, both by preſerving their forces from deſertion, and inhabitants from famine, in a greater degree (I think this letter will evince) than they could have done by the means of contracts. A public agent for the Company inſtead of raiſing the market by a competition with individuals, poſſeſſes an operative hand, which gives him this advantage over them:—His office being the greateſt mart in Town, is the place where the firſt muſters of grain, and the firſt offers of freight, are generally produced; and the current price (though I ever cautiouſly avoided being the firſt to raiſe it) was in ſome meaſure regulated by his ſtandard. Theſe are facts which experience has fully proved. I never gave more for the freight of rice to Madras than 5 ſicca rupees per bag; and individuals, though they found it anſwer their purpoſe ſometimes to pay a higher freight, generally confined themſelves to that rate. Since my Agency has ceaſed, the price of freight is conſiderably increaſed, notwithſtanding the number of Company's ſhips now laden for Madras, and the quantity of rice already imported there. The cauſe of this increaſe is not wholly to be aſcribed to the deſtruction committed by the French fleet in the bay, that having been very trivial, although at the time alarming; but it is owing to the competition of private merchants, who, ſeeing that the public ſupplies have ceaſed to be ſent, and knowing that the exigencies which they tended to relieve muſt be ſatisfied, conclude that the wants at Madras will be the more urgent from this cauſe, and that grain will bear a value in proportion to them.

For

For the ſake of the diſtreſſed natives at Madraſs, I ſincerely hope that this rage for preſſing a beneficial trade will glut the market with grain, but I really apprehend that it will produce no ſuch conſequence. The merchants, though not in combination, are in one predicament, and will naturally aſk the profit they expect. Rice is an indiſpenſable commodity, and muſt be had at any rate. If Government fix the price to prevent extortion, they muſt have an equitable regard to the advantage of the owner, who (as I have obſerved before) has paid high for his concern.

If the Board had thought proper to accept of my offer for a contract, and concluded it with me accordingly for any length of time, I muſt have thrown myſelf upon the indulgence of Government, as the only means of ſaving me and my ſecurities from the ruinous effects of perſevering in it, for the price of freight roſe ſo ſuddenly, and ſo high, that it would have been impoſſible for me, by any exertions of my own, to have fulfilled my engagements; I am the more grateful, therefore, that the Board did not accept my offer in this light.

I believe it has ever been an invariable rule for all contracts made in India to contain ſtipulations for advances of money previous to the performance of ſervices, which, conſidering the neceſſitous ſtate of many Contractors, and the high intereſt of money, is a moſt material object for them to ſecure; indeed, without it, their terms muſt be proportionably higher, the Contractor might juſtify a failure in his engagements if neceſſary, by the want of his regular advances, which are ſeldom paid to the day; and, being thus exempted from the penalty of the contract by the firſt breach of it laying in the Company, would poſſibly continue to execute it no longer than while it proved advantageous to him; diſappointments would enſue, and the ſervice be conſiderably injured, before a freſh contract could be formed; beſides, in a buſineſs which is liable to great fluctuation, the Contractor in his propoſals, to ſecure himſelf from contigencies, muſt include large original profit upon the actual; a circumſtance that might in any event prove diſadvantageous to the Company on the one hand, by diſappointments, as above ſuppoſed, in caſe the price ſhould increaſe, and on the other, by an enormous ſuperfluous expence, in caſe it ſhould fall. I mean not to apply this obſervation in any inſtance to the Company orders, I mention it ſimply as it occurs on my own caſe; for although I ſhould have conſidered myſelf bound in honour to continue the ſervice, even at a loſs, while my reſources would enable me, theſe muſt very ſoon have dried up, and an unavoidable failure enſued, had my contract been accepted, and the execution of it inſiſted on.

Such probably would have been the caſe with the contract which the Preſidency of Bombay informed the Honourable Court of Directors they could have concluded for rice deliverable at Bombay, at rupees 5. 3 per bag, at the time when my conſignment to them was ſo much higher; at leaſt it is clear the Contractor would have been a conſiderable loſer by ſuch a bargain for only the freight to Madras, which is leſs than half the diſtance, was 4 rupees per bag, and the price of grain then about 9 rupees per bag. I very much doubt whether the contract which was entered into afterwards by the Preſidency of Bombay, and adviſed of in their letter of 17th Auguſt 1781, for 50,000 bags of rice, was ever fulfilled by the Contractor, indeed I have good reaſon to believe it was not; but the only fair way of drawing a compariſon is, from the current and relative prices at each place at the ſame point of time; I wiſh I could ſay with preciſion what was the price of grain at Bombay, when the conſignment from hence arrived there; at Madras I am ſure there was always a Profit upon them, and ſometimes a high one; I mean the difference between the invoice and the market price, which I ſtated particularly in my letter of the 21ſt January 1782, and which is ſince greatly increaſed.

If the Preſidency of Bombay have it in their power to make contracts ſo much cheaper than the ſupplies which they receive from this Government, I muſt confeſs it appears extraordinary to me that they ſhould have lately indented to you for 40,000 bags of rice; it is proper alſo to take notice that my accounts are in current rupees, thoſe of Bombay in rupees of a much higher denomination.

Conceiving that the calculation, which appears in the 42d paragraph of the general letter, has been made by ſome of the officers under the Honourable the Court of Directors, I cannot help taking upon me to correct it, as I fear it has tended to miſlead them;—the ſum of 15,92,500 C. Rs. eſtimated to be required in 1781-2, was to include commiſſion, which, in that caſe, ought not to have been computed upon it, but deducted from it, and in fact would have amounted to no more than current rupees 2,07,717. 6, inſtead of current rupees 2,38,875, and the exchange of 2s. 3d. per current rupee, at which the ſuppoſed commiſſion is converted into pounds ſterling is a rate higher than even allowed. The Company's preſent exchange for bills

bills payable at twelve months ſight is only two ſhillings but at the exchange fixed for the ſalaries of the Members of the Board, and the Judges, which is the proper rate for its immediate converſion, the above commiſſion would yield only £.18,292. 16ſ. 5d. inſtead of £.26,873.

I acknowledge that the original commiſſion was high, and the unexpected amount of the ſupplies on which it was drawn made it an object of importance; but this did not eſcape the attention of your Honourable Board, ſince you conſidered and thought fit to reduce it; and the reduction accordingly took place upwards of 12 months before the arrival of the commands from the Honourable the Court of Directors now tranſmitted to me.

In my letter of the 24th ultimo, I meant not to ſuggeſt an oppoſition to the orders of the Honourable the Court of Directors for conducting the buſineſs by contract, but only to offer my ſervices voluntarily and gratuitouſly, with the benefit of the experience I had acquired, for the public welfare, at a time it ſeemed moſt to require them, and by that means to extinguiſh any impreſſion or idea that my advantages had exceeded my deſerts. It is painful to plead my own pretenſions, but I have ſeen many perſons, ſince my reſidence in India, with leſs official truſt, leſs arduous attention to their duty, and lower ſtanding in the ſervice, than myſelf, derive greater fortunes from their ſtations in it than the utmoſt which I can ſay I am poſſeſſed of. I ſhould never have thought of murmuring at this in the common chance of things, but it makes my ſituation the more unlucky, in being ſingular for diſapprobation, on an idea of uncommon favour.

I ſhall conclude with requeſting that you will be pleaſed to order a copy of this letter to be ſent a number in your next packet to the Honourable the Court of Directors, with ſuch remarks or elucidations as you may think proper to make upon it.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Fort William,
the 24th March, 1783. (Signed) J. P. AURIOL.

P. S.—1ſt April 1783. As a more poſitive illuſtration of the comparative advantage derived by the Company from my Agency, I beg leave to add the following facts: The average coſt, and all charges of rice ſhipped for Madras by me, as Agent, on Engliſh and country craft, between the 1ſt Auguſt and 31ſt December 1782, as per my letter of 31ſt January 1783, was current rupees 7. 8 per bag. The average coſt and charges of ditto, as per the Accomptant General's report, from the 18th December 1780 to the 31ſt January 1783, is current rupees 7. 14 per bag.

The price of Captain Mercer's contract, made at Madras in 1781, for rice deliverable there was 130 pagodas per garce, or current rupees 9. 7. 1 per bag.

The rate at which the government of Madras have lately purchaſed rice, by *compulſion*, from individuals, for which they paid them by drafts on this Preſidency, was 150 pagodas per garce, or current rupees 11. 1. 9 per bag; but they have purchaſed it at as high a rate as 200 pagodas per garce, which is current rupees 14. 13 per bag; that is to ſay, within 3 annas of double the price of my ſupplies, furniſhed at the ſame preciſe point of time.

Mr. Killican's propoſal, read at the Board the 24th ultimo, for ſending rice upon country crafts, only in the fair ſeaſon, to Madras, is ſicca rupees 8, or current rupees 9. 4. 6, per bag.

(Signed) J. P. AURIOL.

Ordered, That a copy of this letter be ſent home a number in the packet, by the Surprize, and particularly referred to the Honourable Court of Directors; alſo another copy of the Agent's letter, entered into Conſultation the 3d February laſt.

Read the following letter from the Accountant General.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

In obedience to your orders of the 6th and 20th inſtant, I have now the honour to report to you that the following are the average rates " at which all the ſupplies of rice furniſhed by the

" Agent have ſtood the Company, not including thoſe ſhips on which no freight has been " paid," and the rice ſhipped on the late Mr. Touchet's veſſels, or on ſhips on which other articles have alſo been laden, which, for the reaſons aſſigned in my letter to the Board of the 15th inſtant, I have excluded from this account.

	Quantity ſhipped.	Coſt in Ct Rup	A.	P.	Average price, per Mds. C R	A.	P. Dec. parts.
From 18th December 1780 to the 1ſt May 1781 — — —	81,702	3,07,992	9	2	3 12	3	7,824
From 30th April 1781 to the 1ſt January 1782 — — —	51,898	2,33,683	13	6	4 8	—	528
From 31ſt December 1781 to the 1ſt May 1782 — — —	64,538	2,65,571	12	6	4 1	10	0,608
From 30th April 1782 to the 13th January 1783 — — —	3,64,244	14,09,493	7	4	3 13	10	97,088
Mds. —	5,62,382	22,16,741	10	6	3 15	—	80,657

It may perhaps be neceſſary for me to ſtate to the Board thoſe reaſons which induced me to make the above diviſions of the quantities ſhipped, and their coſt, for thoſe particular periods: The freight was ſo much lower than it has ſince been, that I thought myſelf bound to aſcertain the coſt of the rice ſhipped within that period. In the ſecond of theſe the freight became conſiderably higher than in the former.

In the third of theſe the commiſſion to the Agent being reduced from 15 to 5 per cent. on the charges of ſhipping and freight, a conſiderable reduction took place in the average amount. In the laſt of theſe, the Board will obſerve, that although the commiſſion to the Agent continued as in the former period, yet a conſiderable reduction took place in the coſt of the rice ſhipped, owing to there being a very large portion, of the large quantity ſhipped in that period, laden in ſmall veſſels, which ſailing at a much leſs expence than ſhips or veſſels of greater burthen, could afford to take their cargoes at a reduced rate of freight.

I am, &c.

Fort William,
Accountant General's Office,
31ſt March 1782.

(Signed) W. LARKIN,
Accountant General.

EXTRACT of General Letter from Bengal; dated 5th April 1783.

Par. 90. We have duly complied with your commands contained in theſe paragraphs, for aboliſhing the poſt of Agent for ſupplying ſtores to the other Preſidencies. We have previouſly forbid his engaging any more tonnage for continuing his ſupplies, and confined the duties of his office to the loading of the Company's chartered ſhips, and Mr. Touchet's veſſels which had been long contracted to the Company, in liquidation of his debt to them.

91. The great exertions which were neceſſary for ſaving the ſettlement of Madras from impending famine, and the great benefit which the Company derived from poſſeſſing a quantity of grain at that place, where it conſtantly bore a price conſiderably above the charge of ſending it thither, whether ſuch benefit aroſe from the ſale of the ſurplus remaining, after the wants of the army and garriſon had been ſupplied, or from avoiding the neceſſity of purchaſing grain at the market price to ſupply them, were ſtrong arguments with us for fixing the commiſſion of the Agent at a rate apparently ſo high; and the inconvenience which he ſuſtained, beſides the heavy charge of intereſt, during the exhauſted ſtate of the public Treaſury, from being obliged to negotiate with individuals, or to depoſit with them our orders upon the Treaſury in his favour, to take up money upon thoſe, and upon his own credit, for the performance of the public ſervice, while the moſt dreadful conſequences might have been apprehended from a failure in our ſupplies to Madras, merited alſo ſome conſideration, eſpecially as, upon the whole, the in-

voice

voice prices fell far ſhort of that which the Governor of Fort St. George impoſed upon individuals, when they compelled them to ſell their grain to the Company, although this was of courſe leſs than they could have ſold it for in the market. When we had experienced the extent to which the ſupply was requiſite, and the ſum to which the Agent's commiſſion would amount, notwithſtanding the deductions for intereſt and other charges to which it was ſubject, as ſtated in his letters, we thought it proper, as long ago as March 1782, to make a conſiderable reduction in the commiſſion, which accordingly took place from the 31ſt of December preceding.

92. Having tranſmitted a copy of your remarks and orders to Mr. Auriol, he has addreſſed a letter to us, which contains a particular detail of the Agency; and as the arguments ſet forth in it are highly deſerving of your attention, we beg leave to refer you to a copy of it, which makes a number in this packet.

93. But although we refer you to Mr. Auriol's letter for the circumſtantial detail of this tranſaction, we think it proper to bring the concluſion of it more pointedly before your notice, that you may ſee on the cleareſt demonſtration how much we have conſulted your intereſts, and the wants of your Preſidency of Fort St. George, in an arrangement which you have ſo ſeverely condemned on the groſs and ungenerous miſrepreſentations of thoſe from whom we merited a better return, both for this and every other exertion we have made to ſave them from that deſtruction which would inevitably have attended them, but from our timely and effectual ſuccours.

94. Your ſentiments on the ſubject of the Agency were no ſooner imparted to Mr. Auriol, than he made us an offer of his experience and ſervices, to continue the ſupplies for the current year, without any commiſſion or compenſation whatever for his trouble, wiſhing to remove the impreſſion which was implied by your letter, that his advantages had exceeded the value of his ſervices; we have nevertheleſs, in obedience to your orders, publiſhed an advertiſement for the receipt of propoſals for performing this branch of the public ſervice by contract, and upon the day appointed we ſhall proceed to conſider ſuch as may have been tendered.

95. As a preliminary to it, we have required from the Accountant General a complete average account of the rate of all the ſupplies of rice ſent by the Agent to Madras on veſſels of every kind, excepting the Company's chartered ſhips, which were exempt from the charge of freight, and Mr. Touchet's veſſels, which were alſo exempt from his commiſſion.

EXTRACT

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, the 10th April 1783.

Opened propoſals for delivering rice at Madras.

The propoſals being abſtracted, are as follows:

ABSTRACT of the Propoſals delivered in by the 10th April 1783, for contracting for the Delivery of Rice at Fort St. George

	Quantity of bags	Rate per bag.	
1 Sam. Clark — —	50,000	10 11 3	or A. Rs. 11. 8
2 Rob. Donald — —	25,000	8,000 8 — — 9,000 7 — — 8,000 8 — —	Mean 7. 10. 3, to be landed in 15 days after the arrival of each veſſel, or to pay demurrage.
3 Wm. Paxton — —	30,000	8 13 6	or A. Rs. 9. 8
4 E. Morris — —	20,000	10 — —	
5 A. Williams — —	50,000	9 8 —	
6 Will. Bruere — —	50,000	8 8 —	on Country ſhips, commanded and officered by Europeans
7 Jn. Lewis Auriol, 3 propoſals: 1ſt, for —	50,000	20,000 a. 7 8 — 15,000 7 12 — 15,000 8 — —	Mean 7. 11. 7, to be landed in 14 days, or pay demurrage
2d. If limited to —	30,000	7 8 —	
3d. If required to be landed before 15th November	10,000	9 4 —	
8 John Petrie — —	50,000	8 4 —	the veſſel to carry treaſure freight-free
9 John Farquhar —	50,000	7 12 —	
10 Page Keble — —	1,20,000	7 12 —	
11 John Beatſon — —	50,000	7 8 —	
12 The Honourable R. Lindſay	15,000	a. 2 Rs per bag, and the eſtabliſhed freight	
13 John Furguſſon —	1,40,000	a. S. Rs 6. 12 per bag	
Tonnage for — —	60,000	more expected, and offered at the average of the other tenders, without advances	

Agreed to accept Mr. Furguſſon's propoſals for one hundred and forty thouſand bags, at ſicca rupees, ſix, twelve annas per bag.

Ordered, That the Company's Attorney be directed to prepare a contract accordingly.

Agreed alſo, to accept the Honourable Robert Lindſay's propoſals for fifteen thouſand bags. This propoſal being of a different nature, and very eligible in itſelf, the Board think it worthy of their acceptance; but the terms of freight being left for the Board's deciſion:

Agreed, That ſix rupees twelve annas, the rate at which Mr. Furguſſon is to ſupply his rice, be offered to Mr. Lindſay for his acceptance.

EXTRACT

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, 14th April 1783.

EXTRACT of letter from the Governor General and Council, to the Preſident and Council of Fort St George, dated 14th April 1783.

In conſequence of orders from the Honourable the Court of Directors, that the Agency for ſupplying your Preſidency with grain and other ſtores ſhould be diſcontinued, and all future ſupplies ſent by contract, we aboliſhed that office, and publiſhed the encloſed advertiſement for the receipt of propoſals to deliver rice at Fort St. George. On the 10th inſtant we accordingly opened ſuch propoſals as had been received, and we have agreed to contract with Mr. John Ferguſſon for the quantity of 1,40,000 bags, at the rate of ſicca rupees 6. 12 per bag; with Mr. John Beatſon, for 50,000 bags; and with the Honourable Robert Lindſay, for 15,000 bags, both at the ſame price.

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, the 10th November 1783.

To the Honourable Warren Haſtings, Eſquire, Governor General, &c. Council at Fort William.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

We have herewith the honour to encloſe to you an extract from the Minutes of a Conſultation held on the 12th inſtant, containing our ſentiments relative to the ſubjects of your letter to the Council at large, under date the 18th ultimo.

We have the honour, &c.

Fort St. George, 16th September 1783. (Signed) MACARTNEY, Preſident, and Members.

EXTRACT from the Minutes of Conſultation, 12th September, 1783.

Read the following Letter from Bengal, which was received here yeſterday, dated 18th Auguſt 1783.

(EXTRACT.)

To the Right Honourable George Lord Macartney, Preſident, &c. Council at Fort St. George.

My Lord, and Gentlemen,

We have the honour to acknowledge our receipt of your letters of the 26th and 27th of July, and 5th of Auguſt; and have, in conformity to your requeſts, made public your reſolution to diſcontinue the ſuſpenſion of the import duties on grain and proviſions at your port after the 1ſt inſtant.

At the ſame time that we were made acquainted with this reſolution, we received a communication of an advertiſement publiſhed at your Preſidency, of your having aſſumed to yourſelves the excluſive privilege of ſelling rice by retail, and having commanded all boutiques for the ſale by retail of rice belonging to individuals to be ſhut up for the preſent. It is true that you have not notified to us any ſuch publication, but it is mentioned to be, and muſt of courſe be, if it exiſts, a matter of general notoriety; we encloſe a copy of it, and requeſt that you will inform

us if ſuch a publication has been actually iſſued; it prohibits the ſale of all rice but that in your own ſtores, without even a reſervation for any already in your port, or even landed: We are free to declare, that both this publication, and that which you have notified to us in your letter of the 27th ultimo, muſt be productive of very heavy and unmerited loſſes to thoſe who had provided cargoes of grain for your port, under the faith of that freedom of importation, which has been hitherto allowed, and to which they were undoubtedly entitled, until a ſufficient time had been given them to diſpoſe of it. We are more eſpecially induced to take notice of theſe publications, as the injury ariſing from them is likely to fall with peculiar weight upon the merchants of this Preſidency, who, you will permit us to ſay, deſerved a different return for the liberal ſupplies which they have afforded you under our encouragement, during your greateſt diſtreſſes. We expect to be ſoon furniſhed with an official ſtatement of our means to ſupply your wants, and will then conſider the requeſt which you have made of our aſſiſtance, in your letter of the 26th ultimo; but in the mean time we beg leave to repeat our requeſt, for the return of our Bengal detachment and artillery, which we conceive will be productive of a great relief to your expences.

MINUTE of the Preſident and Council of Fort St. George.

The advertiſement alluded to in the above letter appears by the copy tranſmitted to be that of the 29th July laſt. The motives which induced the Board to reſolve on an excluſive retail ſale of the public ſtore of grain are fully explained on the face of the proceedings. The high price, and bad quality of the rice ſent from Bengal on the Company's account, as frequently repreſented by the Garriſon Storekeeper, rendered every other chance of diſpoſing of it, without infinite loſs, impoſſible. Private traders could underſell the Company's proviſion of grain without detriment.—This Government was in the month of July, from the diminution of ſupplies of money from Bengal, the encreaſed demand for it by the troops daily arriving from Europe, and the ſtagnation of other reſources at this ſeaſon of the year, driven to the utmoſt diſtreſs for caſh to defray the current military charges. They had no means of raiſing an immediate ſupply, but by the diſpoſal of a part of the garriſon ſtores, which, had it been of a good quality, was become leſs material to preſerve, on account of the peace in Europe, and which, being of a bad quality, would have periſhed before it was wanted to make uſe of: The Board therefore took the only method they could deviſe to effect this purpoſe, conſiſtently with their duty and their attention to the intereſt of their employers. The reſtriction was not meant to continue longer than to raiſe a temporary ſupply of caſh; and of courſe the public communication of the intention to diſtant ſettlements could only ſerve to weaken its effect, and to ſpread an unneceſſary alarm. It had accordingly ceaſed at the time the Governor General and Council addreſſed the Board on the ſubject.

In the preſent inability of the Government to provide reſources for the payment of even the military diſburſements, they are concerned to find any channel of relief ſhut up; but as the Governor General and Council muſt, from the repeated repreſentations, be ſenſible of our diſtreſs, and as all indulgencies to the Shroffs, both here and at Maſulipatam, were aſſented to at the deſire of the Bengal Government, the Board here have every confidence that the Governor General and Council mean to furniſh us with treaſure by ſea, in order to avoid the delay which the other mode neceſſarily occaſions.

Ordered, that this letter, with its encloſure, be referred to the late Agent for Supplies.

EXTRACT of Letter from the Preſident and Select Committee, at Fort St. George, to the Governor General and Council, dated 21ſt September, 1783.

We cannot avoid obſerving to you the very bad quality of the rice you have lately ſent us; ſome of it is actually unfit, on its arrival, to be lodged in the public ſtore—and the loſs to the Company upon the ſale of it muſt inevitably be very heavy. For your ſatisfaction on this point, we have ſent by Captain Lennox a ſealed muſter of the rice landed from his ſhip, which he will deliver to you.

Ordered,

Ordered, That the Secretary do call upon Captain Lennox to acquaint the Board, if he, or any of his officers, ſaw the muſter of rice ſelected, how it came to be damaged, and what in his opinion was the quality of the rice landed from his ſhip.

Ordered, That the incloſures in the letter of the 21ſt September be entered after the conſultation.

POSTSCRIPT of a Letter from the Preſident and Select Committee, at Fort St. George, to the Governor General and Council, dated 2d October 1783.

Some irregularities having appeared in the Company's cargo of rice by the Major, we encloſe to you copies of the papers that have paſſed on the ſubject, with account delivery of the cargo; a ſealed muſter of it is alſo herewith encloſed.

Ordered, That the Secretary do call upon Captain Arthur to acquaint the Board, if he, or any of his officers, ſaw the muſter of rice ſelected, how it came to be damaged, and what in his opinion was the quality of the rice landed from his ſhip.

Ordered, That the encloſures in the above letter be entered after the conſultation.

EXTRACT of Letter from the Preſident and Select Committee, at Fort St. George, to the Governor General and Council, dated 20th October 1783.

We herewith encloſe to you copies of account of rice and rum delivered from the ſhip Calcutta, with a letter from the purſer on thoſe ſubjects; and, as from the nature of the caſe, we cannot ſettle the deficiency to be charged to the owners, we are under the neceſſity of referring it to your deciſion.

Ordered, That the encloſures be entered after the conſultation, and that they be referred to the late Agent for Supplies.

To Captain John Lennox.

Sir,

Herewith I ſend you ſamples of the rice landing from your ſhip.—There are ſo many different ſorts, of a very inferior quality, and ſome part in bad condition, that I muſt requeſt you will be ſo kind as to explain the cauſe for the information of the Board. According to invoice the bags ſhould be all ſealed, and have the Company's mark, which appears upon few of what have been hitherto delivered.

I am, Sir,

Your very obedient humble ſervant,

Fort St. George,
4th September 1783. (Signed) JOHN TURING, G. Storekeeper,

A true Copy.

Charles Freeman, Secretary.

Sir,

Sir,

I have received your letter, desiring me to account for the different qualities of rice delivered from the Southampton, on account of the Honourable Company.

I beg leave to inform you, that I am unacquainted with the quality of it; the rice was received from many different vessels, one of which brought it in bulk, and it was put in bags at Kedjeree, some was received from a vessel which was drove on shore, some from the Warren Hastings, and a few bags of this was marked Poors Rice; and as to the invoice they have sent you, I really do not understand it, for we never weighed a bag of it, neither were they sealed, and very few marked. I likewise understand they have invoiced more than we received; I have also been applied to for rice on account of the poor. The whole quantity I received was 5,065 bags, which was on account of the Honourable Company, and no rice whatever was tendered to us for the poor, notwithstanding they have sent an invoice for 490 bags.

I am, Sir,

Your most humble servant,

Madras,
9th Septr. 1783. (Signed) JOHN LENNOX.

A true Copy.

Charles Freeman, Secretary.

John Turing, Esquire.

Dr. **ACCOUNT** of Rice per Ship Southampton, Captain Lennox, from Bengal. Cr.

1783.						1783.		Bags.	Br Md lb
September 14th.	To Rice received at Madras, 1st Sort,		2,310			May 27th.	By Rice, as per Bill of Lading, 5,038, containing		10,076 —
	2d Do		1,948						
	3d Do		679		Br Md lb				
			4,937,	containing	8,710 3				
	To Ditto D. damaged	—	134,	at Medium	235 34				
			5,071		8,935 37				
	To Ditto, Deficiency, allowing at 5 per Cent.			—	503 66				
	To Ditto, Extraordinary Deficiency	—		—	636 61				
					10,076 —				10,076 —

Fort St. George, 15th September, 1783.

Errors excepted,

(Signed) per JOHN TURING, Gn. Sr.

(A true Copy)

Chas Freeman, Secry

To Captain John Lennox of the Ship Southampton.

Sir,

You are hereby ordered to proceed on board your ſhip, and after having received on board the members of the Committee of Circuit, with their Aſſiſtant and Surgeon, as before directed, you are to make the beſt of your way to the road of Vizagapatam, where you are to ſtay until the Committee, &c. are landed, with their ſervants and neceſſaries; you are then to continue your voyage to the river of Bengal, and to proceed up as far as Ingellee; where on your arrival you are to forward the accompanying packet to the Governor General and Council, and to follow their orders for your proceedings.

Dated in Fort St George,
the 22d Sept. 1783.

(Signed) MACARTNEY,
&c. Council.

A true copy.

Charles Freeman, Secretary.

To the Right Honourable George Lord Macartney, K. B. Preſident and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George.

My Lord, and Gentlemen,

In a minute I delivered to the Board 18th ultimo, I repreſented the indifferent quality of the rice landing from the ſhip Major; I have now the honour to lay before the Board a particular account of the rice received: as Captain Arthur made a regular proteſt, I apprehend the amount of rice damaged on board the ſhip ſhould be wrote off to profit and loſs; but in regard to the inferiority in quality, I beg leave to recommend ſending ſamples of the rice to the Governor General, &c. together with copy of Captain Arthur's letter to me upon the ſubject.

I have the honour to be,

8th October 1783.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

(Signed) JOHN TURING,
G. Storekeeper.

A true copy.

Charles Freeman, Secretary.

To Captain David Arthur.

Sir,

Herewith I ſend you ſamples of the rice landing from your ſhip: there are ſo many different ſorts, of a very inferior quality, and ſome part in bad condition, that I muſt requeſt you will be ſo kind as to explain the cauſe, for the information of the Board. According to invoice the bags ſhould be all ſealed, and have the Company's mark, which appears upon few of what have been hitherto delivered.

I am, Sir,

Fort St. George,
4th September 1783.

Your very obedient humble ſervant,

(Signed) JOHN TURING,
Garriſon Storekeeper.

A true copy,

Charles Freeman, Secretary.

John

John Turing, Eſquire, Garriſon Storekeeper.

Sir,

In anſwer to your letter, which I had the honour to receive yeſterday, accompanied with ſome ſamples of rice, and requeſting to have the cauſe explained, why the bags landed on the Honourable Company's account are not marked and ſealed, I am to acquaint you that the Government of Bengal had reſolved to ſend horſes down to this Preſidency in the Major, and, allowing for the tonnage of thoſe horſes, had calculated three thouſand two hundred bags of rice (together with ſome military ſtores) to make up the chartered tonnage of the ſhip. As this arrangement gave great room in the hold, I had ordered the additional quantity of rice on board to fill up that vacancy. Soon after, Government thought proper to reſcind their reſolution concerning the horſes, and I was ordered to receive on board the chartered tonnage of rice, being ſix thouſand bags; and in order to accommodate me, they allowed two thouſand eight hundred bags that had been ſhipped on private accounts to make up the number, which is the cauſe why thoſe bags were not marked, &c. as uſual. In reſpect to the quality of the rice, I can only obſerve, that it was purchaſed of the Reverend Mr. Barber, by muſter, which was delivered to Mr. Auriol, junior, when he took the ſaid 2,800 bags on the Honourable Company's account.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your moſt obedient

humble ſervant,

(Signed) DAVID ARTHUR.

Fort St. George,
September 5th, 1783.

A true copy,
Charles Freeman, Secretary.

Dr. ACCOUNT of Rice received per Ship Major, Captain David Arthur, from Bengal. Cr.

1783.				1783.		
October 3d.	To rice received at Madras.			January 16th.	Bags. By rice, a. per invoice 5,500, containing	Br Md lb. 11,000 —
	1 ſort according to Muſter —	2,437				
	2 D — to Do —	1,140				
	3d Do — to Do —	1,047				
		4,624 bags, contg	Br Md lb. 8,580 68			
	To ditto damaged, 876 bags on board the ſhip, as ſpecified in Captain Arthur's proteſt, which is totally unfit for uſe, average weight —		1,625 12			
			10,205 80			
	To ditto, extraordinary deficiency paid for by Capt. Arthur —	244 2 —				
	To ditto, uſual allowance for Port deficiency, at 5 per cent. —	550 — —				
			794 2			
			11,000 —			11,000 —

Fort St. George, 3d October 1783.

Errors excepted. (Signed) per JOHN TURING,
Garriſon Storekeeper.

A true Copy.
Cha[s] Freeman, Secretary.

Dr. ACCOUNT of Rice per Ship Calcutta, Captain Thompſon, from Bengal. Cr.

1783.	Bags.		Maunds lb.	1783.		
September 7th.	To rice at Madras, 991, containing —		1,801 8	May 24th.	By rice, as per Captain Thompſon's receipt, 1,433 bags, containing — —	2,866 —
	To Do deficient — 442 — — —		1,064 74			
	1,433 — —		2,866 —			2,866 —

Fort St. George, 15th September 1783.

Errors excepted.
A true Copy,
Charles Freeman, Secretary.

per (ſigned) JOHN TURING,
Garriſon Storekeeper.

Fort St. George, September 20th, 1783.

Sir,

You, no doubt, muſt be very much ſurprized at the great deficiency of the rice ſhipped on board the Calcutta, Captain William Thompſon, at Bengal, and conſigned to this place, without having ſome reaſon aſſigned for ſuch deficiency. When the pilot was ordered to take charge of the ſhip to carry her out, and hearing the draught of water the ſhip was at, he refuſed to take charge without her being lightened, which was complied with, and four hundred and thirteen bags of rice belonging to the Honourable Company, and ſeven hundred bags belonging to Captain Thompſon, was put on board of a ſchooner hired for that purpoſe, intending to take the ſaid rice on board again when the ſhip got into deep water; but then the weather came on very bad, and ſo much ſwell, that it was impoſſible for any veſſel to lay alongſide; and, at that time of the year, very unſafe to wait, which obliged us to come to ſea without it: The midſhipman and one of the ſeamen who were put on board the ſchooner to take care of the rice, delivered to Mr. John Auriol, at Calcutta, the four hundred and thirteen bags of rice, belonging to the Honourable Company, and took his receipt, which the midſhipman gave to Gocul Goſe (Captain Thompſon's Banyan) to forward to Madras, which has not yet come to hand: The remainder of the deficiency got damaged in our paſſage, by the badneſs of the weather, and was thrown over board, excepting twenty-four bags, which was landed here and re-ſhipped.—The leakage of the rum, if you will pleaſe to refer to the bill of lading, you will there find a minute of the caſks being very bad and leaky at the time they were received into the ſhip, and no cooper could be borrowed, and our own was preſſed by the St. Carlos.

I am,

Sir,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

(Signed) WILLIAM STAINES,
Purſer.

A true Copy.
Chas Freeman, Secry.

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, 24th November 1783.

Read a letter, as follows, from the acting Accountant General.

Honourable Sir, and Gentlemen,

1ſt. The Accountant General, prior to his embarkation for Bombay, having reported on the accounts of the Agent of Supples to the other Preſidencies, ſo far up as the 1ſt January 1782, it has devolved on me to lay before your Honourable Board a report containing the reſult of my inveſtigation of the accounts of that officer, from the ſaid date up to the 30th June 1783; in the courſe of which I beg leave to premiſe, that I have ſtrictly adhered to the rules which the Accountant General adopted for his guidance in the audit of the agent's accounts, to the date at which it ceaſed, and which I muſt therefore conſider as having received your ſanction.

2d. Due credit appears to have been given by the agent for the ſums charged to him by the accounts of the treaſury; and, ſaving the articles which, on the above ground, I point out for the determination of the Honourable Board, I find not any others which are ſubjects of remark, his additions and calculations being correct, and the ſums placed by him to the Dr of the Company, correſponding with the invoices which he has furniſhed.

3d. The ſum credited in his abſtracts for March 1782 correſponds with the amount debited by him for the cargo of the Royal Admiral returned, after deducting ſundry petty charges incidental to the packing up and ſhipping it.

4th. The Board will judge of the propriety of the charge made in June 1782, for cutting 8 ſeals, ſicca rupees 32, which the agent informs me were for ſealing the bags, according to the orders of the board.

5th. The remark on the 3d article is applicable to the ſum credited by the agent in July, for the cargo of the Diana, Henry, and Nancy; alſo, to the ſum credited by him in Auguſt 1782, on account of the cargo of the Rumbold returned.

6th. The following charge alſo forms an article for the determination of the Honourable Board.

26 Bolts of Engliſh canvas for tarpaulings to cover rice, &c. at 55 Sa. Rs. each - -	1,430	-	-
Sail-makers work making 20 tarpaulings -	188	6	-
Sa. Rs.	1,618	6	-

7th. The ſums credited by the agent in his abſtract for September 1782, and throughout the ſubſequent month, for the freight of Mr. Touchet's veſſels, correſpond with thoſe included in the invoices of rice, &c. laden on them, and charged for by the agent in his accounts.

8th. The remark on the 3d article is applicable to the ſum credited by the agent in September, on account of the original invoice of the Prince William, in October; on account of the original invoices of the Northumberland and Warren; and on account of freight received back from the owners of the Diana, Henry, and Nancy, and commiſſion thereon, at 5 per cent.

9th. The ſums credited by the Agent in his abſtract for November, 1782, on account of Commiſſion erroneouſly charged on the freight of the following veſſels belonging to Mr. Samuel Touchet is accurately computed, viz. On the Mary, Friendſhip, Betſy, Omeedpore, Black Prince, and Charlotte; alſo the ſum credited for the ſame reaſon, on account of the freight of the Warren, which ſhip was taken up by the Board.

10th. The remark on the 3d article is applicable to the credit given on account of the cargo of the Floyer returned.

11th. The charge of commiſſion paid to William Hamilton, at Corringa, on the 16 coaſt veſſels procured by him, at, and under $3\frac{1}{2}$ ſicca rupees per bag. The Honourable Board can only determine whether this was authorized by them, or ſhould be admitted, being,

at 5 per cent. - - Sa. Rs.	2,486	-	-
And demurrage - -	116	-	-
	2,602	-	-

12th. The Agent, in May, 1783, makes the following charges; viz. for rice laden on Mr. Touchet's veſſels, as per account particulars, No. 1 - - - 72,382 - 10
For do. diſpatched per do. No. 2 - - - - 19,486 13 11
For do. do. per do. No. 3 - - - 1,955 3 2
93,824 1 11

The Agent never having ſent to this office any invoices of the above rice, nor liſts containing the names of the ſeveral veſſels on which it is ſtated to have been laden, theſe particulars remain ſtill to be explained; for as it does not appear that any of thoſe veſſels ever ſailed out of the river, the whole of the above rice ſhould be accounted for by the Agent.

13th. The

13th. The charges for rice and St. Helena ſtores, diſpatched to the Europe ſhips, and not received by them, as per account particulars, No. 4 - C. Rs. 27,415 12 10
Alſo for gunney bags in ſtore, do. No. 5 - - 3,573 10 5

C Rs. 30,989 7 3

As the ſtores and rice have been received back, the agent is anſwerable for them, or what they may ſell for.

14th. I find that during the period for which the Agent's accounts are now under inveſtigation, he includes the coſt of bags, mats, jars, and duppers, with the merchandize, and ſays that he regards them as purchaſes; the Board will therefore determine whether theſe articles come within this deſcription, or ſhould be conſidered as a part of the charges.

15th. Liſt of accounts examined, and herewith ſubmitted to the Honourable Board.

Abſtract account of the receipts and diſburſements of the Agent of Supplies for the other Preſidencies, from the 1ſt January to the 28th February 1782.
Do. do. from 1ſt to the 31ſt March 1782
1ſt January, from 1ſt to the 30th April 1782
Do. do. from 1ſt to the 31ſt May - do.
Do. do. for the month of June - do.
Do. do. for July - - - do.
Do. do. for Auguſt - - do.
Do. do. for September - do.
Do. do. for October - - do.
Do. do. for November - - do.
Do. do. for December - - do.
Do. do. for January - - 1783
Do. do. for February - do.
Do. do. for March - do.
Do. do. for April - - - do.
Do. do. for May - - do.
Do. do. for June - - - do.

No. 1. Account of demurrage paid for bhurs to Kedgeree, charged in the Agent's abſtract for January and February 1782.

No. 2. Account of rice loſt and damaged by ſtormy weather, from the 23d January to the end of February 1782.—No. 3. Account difference of commiſſion between 15 and 5 per cent. on his diſburſements, on account of charges merchandize, from the 31ſt December 1781 to the 29th March 1782;—and No. 4. Account intereſt due to the Agent for Supplies, on the orders of Treaſury granted to him from the 31ſt December 1781, are charged for in March 1782.

No. 5. Charges lading and unlading Mr. Touchet's veſſels at Myapore.—No. 6. Account charges building 2 gollahs at Harrah, for depoſiting Backergunge rice, and 3 gollahs for depoſiting rice returned from Mr. Touchet's veſſels, are charged for in April 1782.

No. 7. Account of diſburſements for the hire and demurrage of bhurs and ſloops employed to lade the Europe ſhips at Kedgeree, and the Barrabulla, charged in May 1782.

No. 8. Account charges of building three gollahs in the Cooly Bazar, ordered by the Honourable the Governor General and Council, on the 25th April 1782, charged in June 1782.

No. 9. Account deficiency of rice returned from the ſnow Triumph, with charges unlading the whole cargo, and re-lading again; alſo, account deficiency of rice and ghee returned from the ſloop Peter, with charges as above; likewiſe, ditto and ditto from the ſloop Right, with charges as above, charged in July 1782.

No. 10. Account deficiency of rice re-landed by order of the Governor General and Council, in March and April 1782, from Samuel Touchet's veſſels.—No. 11. Do. do. do. do. charged in March 1783.

No. 12. Account

No. 12. Account of deficiency of St. Helena ſtores returned from the Europe ſhips, in July 1782, March and April 1783.—No. 13. Account of rice loſt on the way to the Europe ſhips at Kedgeree and Culpee, charged in April 1782.

No. 14. Account of rice, &c. laden on Mr. Touchet's veſſels, in January and February 1783.

No. 15. Account of ditto, diſpatched to ditto's veſſels at Mayapore.—No. 16. Account of rice, &c. received from ditto's veſſels, in March and April 1783.—No. 17. Account of rice, &c. and St. Helena ſtores, diſpatched to the Europe ſhips at Kedgeree, in March and April 1783.—No. 18. Account charges, landing and weighing rice received from Rungpore;—and No. 19. Account charges incurred for the hire of ſloops and other craft, charged in May 1783.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) JA'. MILLER,
Acting Accountant General.

Fort William,
Accountant General's Office, 2d Sept. 1783.

Read the following remarks from Mr. Auriol on the preceding letter.

REMARKS on the Accountant General's Audit, dated 2d September 1783.

On Par. 4th. Theſe 8 ſeals are in ſtore, and ready to be delivered up.

6th. Theſe tarpaulings were made to cover and preſerve rice, in the way down to the ſhips at Culpee and Kedgeree; 7 of them have been loſt in this ſervice, and the remainder ſold at outcry, for which credit will be given.

9th. Commiſſion was charged as uſual in my office on the invoices by theſe veſſels; but it occurred to me, that the engagements for freighting them had been concluded by the Board, and not immediately with me; for this reaſon I thought I was not properly entitled to the commiſſion, I therefore ſtruck out what had been already charged, carried the amount of it to credit, and deſiſted from charging any on Mr. Touchet's veſſels from that time.

11th. This was incurred as the neceſſary conſequence of employing an agent at Coringa to perform the ſervice, but I limited the amount of freight, under which only I would allow him to charge commiſſion, in order to ſtimulate the endeavours of this Agent, Mr. Hamilton, to engage veſſels at as low a freight as poſſible. The antecedent ſeaſon he charged the ſame commiſſion upon all the veſſels he had engaged for me, and I paid it out of my own allowance, which, before the deduction, was ſufficient to afford it.

12. The account required has been prepared in courſe, and accompanies this: it ſhews the produce of the rice received back from Mr. Touchet's veſſels, and the amount ſale, at a public outcry, made by the Company's Auctioneer, with the balance of other articles remaining in ſtore; but N° 3. C. Rs 1,955. 3. 2, is improperly inſerted, that being the amount of an actual deficiency on the rice received back from Mr. Touchet the preceding ſeaſon, cauſed by waſtage, not a charge for rice laden upon his veſſels, as the Accomptant General expreſſes it.

13. An account of the produce of theſe ſtores, ſold at the ſame time, is likewiſe encloſed, and the amount carried to credit.

14. I can with the ſtricteſt truth declare, that the idea ſuggeſted by this paragraph never once ſtruck me until the paragraph itſelf pointed it out. The rule I had obſerved in conſequence of the Board's reſolution, when they reduced my commiſſion upon charges, was to draw 15 per cent. upon all purchaſes, and 5 per cent. upon charges; but I only drew this upon invoices actually laden. I drew no commiſſion whatever upon more troubleſome ſervices, ſuch as building golas, expences incurred at them, demurrage of ſloops and boats, charges of loading and unloading Mr. Touchet's veſſels, or even on the firſt purchaſe of grain made for that purpoſe

poſe, in January 1782, which was not actually invoiced and diſpatched; nor did I charge commiſſion on the other incidental expences which appear in my monthly accounts; and I thought this a liberal conſtruction of the Board's reſolution, which admitted a claim of 5 per cent. upon all charges. If I have erred in any part of it, my accounts are open to correction, and I ſhall be ſatisfied with any adjuſtment the Board may think fit to order.

Calcutta, the 10th November 1783. (Signed) J. P. AURIOL.

Ordered, that the accounts encloſed be ſent to the Accountant General, with a copy of Mr Auriol's remarks, and agreed, that he be inſtructed to paſs them, as they now ſtand, up to the 30th June laſt, the period to which they were audited.

Read the following letter, and encloſures, from Mr. Auriol.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

After the general refutation of general charges from the Garriſon Storekeeper at Fort St. George, upon the quality of the rice ſent thither, which I had the honour to deliver to you on the 6th of February 1782, I muſt confeſs I did not expect that the Gentlemen at Madras would have repeated the ſame looſe mode of accuſation which I then with ſo much juſtice complained of.—My Letter declared that "a general charge of this nature was too vague, I conceived, to be refuted otherwiſe than by general aſſertions;" and a copy of it was tranſmitted to them.—I therefore at leaſt flattered myſelf, if any future complaints ſhould be made, that they would be ſpecific, and applied to the particular caſes whence they originated, that my defence might have a poſitive object to guide it to the point which required explanation or refutation; and the evidence I ſhould think it neceſſary to offer might neither be negative or preſumptive, as general evidence muſt be, nor foreign to the ſubject in queſtion.

In the preſent inſtance I muſt endeavour to fix the alluſion of the charge myſelf, and reply to it; for my conſcience revolts at the idea of an imputation of neglect, or worſe, when, ſo far from deſerving it, I can and do ſolemnly declare, that I have actually taken great pains to prevent any cauſe of complaint, by uniformly procuring the beſt grain which was to be purchaſed, for the ſupply of Madras.—I can only ſuppoſe the complaint to lie againſt ſome of the rice diſpatched upon dhonies or country veſſels in December laſt, but chiefly againſt a quantity ſent down by the collector of Rungpore, a part of which was ordered by the Board to be rejected*; and the encloſed letter, No 1, written to him in conſequence, on the 11th November 1782.—But late in December, no anſwer having been received, nor any perſon appearing on his part to take charge of the rejected rice, a number of dhonies being partly laden for Madras, and all the rice at that time procurable in the wholeſale markets of Calcutta being inſufficient to complete their lading, as the new rice of that year's crop was not yet come in, I was reduced to the option of filling up theſe veſſels partly with the promiſcuous remains of rice in the Calcutta markets (ſome muſters of which, though not bad, I had before declined to buy) and partly with the bad rice from Rungpore, if I wiſhed to diſpatch them early, or to keep them here upon demurrage, and at a greater hazard of falling in with the enemy, by ſailing later till the new rice ſhould come in.—The quantity which I had in ſtore, and the difficulty of procuring more, will be ſeen by my addreſs to you of the 22d October 1782, in which I ſaid, that "all "the country craft ought to be diſpatched from hence to Madras by the 1ſt of December, or "earlier if poſſible, ſince they would run leſs riſk of falling in with the enemy's cruizers by "ſailing early. I think it neceſſary to acquaint you that rice in Calcutta has now riſen in "price to 35 ſeer per rupee, at which rate I do not think it adviſeable to purchaſe any at preſent, or till I am at a greater certainty with reſpect to the diſpatches from Rungpore; yet "the neceſſities of the Preſidency of Fort St. George are ſo great, that I cannot defer pro-

* It is proper to remark, that this was the firſt rice ſent down by the collector of Rungpore; the laſt diſpatch was rejected, and actually returned to his Agent, in

" ceeding for a moment in my ſupplies, without apprizing you of ſo important a circumſtance, " leſt it ſhould be aſcribed to a relaxation of that attention which I have conſtantly endea- " voured to ſhew to this branch of the public ſervice."—I reſiſted the firſt alternative above mentioned, againſt the decided opinions of my brother and my Agents, for ſome time, till convinced of the expediency and propriety of it, as the ſettlement at Madras were then in extreme diſtreſs for grain, and had written to this government, " that they were little able to do any " thing, otherwiſe than by ſoliciting you for a moſt plentifull ſupply of money, *proviſions*, and " gunpowder. They know your readineſs to aſſiſt their ſettlement, and had only to ſuggeſt to " you, that it may be proper, in default of tonnage procured with the conſent of individuals, " to preſs ſuch further tonnage as may be within your power;" which ſuggeſtion could only relate to *rice*, as money and gunpowder would require but little tonnage to tranſport them.—On conſidering theſe points, I no longer heſitated, but adopted the meaſure of diſpatching the veſſels with the rice above mentioned; and after they had all ſailed, I wrote a letter, as per encloſed copy, No. 2. to the Secretary at Madras, with intention to prevent any imputation or reproach upon me for the bad quality of ſome of the rice which they contained; but it certainly did not deſerve the epithet *dear*, becauſe no price whatever was affixed to it, that was left to be ſettled with the collector of Rungpore, and not ſpecified in the invoices.—If I was wrong in ſending the Rungpore rice, I erred only from my zeal to do right, for it was certainly contrary to my own intereſt to ſend rice not purchaſed by myſelf, and on which I drew no commiſſion, when by waiting till I could purchaſe it, I might have drawn a commiſſion; but the relief of the famine which was raging at Madras was to me a more powerful call than any other, and this was my motive for ſending it.

Fortunately, another advantage attended the early diſpatch of theſe veſſels, the importance of which may be an excuſe for the digreſſion. Our fleet was gone to the Malabar Coaſt; the enemies left undiſturbed maſters of the Bay of Bengal; and the ſettlement of Madras in the horrid pangs of an actual famine. The Companies dhonies, which ſailed early in the ſeaſon, arrived at Madras and delivered their cargoes, before the enemy could beat up to the Northward to occupy the ſtations where they premeditated to cruize; ſeveral dhonies laden by individuals, and ſome freighted for the Company, which ſailed later, fell into the enemy's hands, and were deſtroyed by them, after having adminiſtered to their ſupport.

Having thus given ſuch an explanation of this matter as I hope will ſatisfy you, and being confirmed in the opinion that my conſtruction and application of the charge is right, becauſe the badneſs of the rice is ſtated rather as a fact for the groundwork of other relative proceedings, than as a ſubject of complaint, I crave your permiſſion to take this occaſion of offering to you my own, my brother, and ſundry of my agents affidavits, hereunto annexed, No. 3, relative to the quantity of my ſupplies; upon the ſtrength of which, I truſt that every poſſible impreſſion, which any general aſſertions to the contrary might convey, will be totally effaced and defeated.

I am, &c.

Fort William,
the 31ſt October 1783.

(Signed) J. P. AURIOL.

To Mr. Richard Goodlad, Collector of Rungpore.

Sir,

I am directed by the Honourable the Governor General and Council to acquaint you with the arrival of three diſpatches of grain, which you have ſent to the Preſidency; the two firſt, dated 11th and 17th September, have been landed, and are now receiving by the Agent for Supplies; but he has been directed to reject a quantity, as unfit for tranſporting to Madras, which by three ſeveral muſters appears to conſiſt chiefly of paddy, or black and bad rice.

I am, &c.

Fort William,
the 11th November 1782.

(Signed) J. P. AURIOL,
Secretary.

N. B. Your diſpatch of ten boats, dated 13th September, is alſo arrived.

To

To Charles Freeman, Eſquire, Secretary at Fort St. George.

Sir,

The cargo of the Dbeny Stree Venalawarloo, Caulah Veriaſaha Syrang, diſpatched ſome time ſince, having by miſtake been invoiced as Rungpore rice, I beg leave to ſend you a corrected invoice of the ſame.

Part of the Rungpore rice alluded to, which has been ſent on other veſſels, is of a very inferior quality, and was rejected; but no grain being procurable in the markets at that time, and the exigencies of your Settlement preſſing for a ſpeedy ſupply, it was thought preferable to ſend it than to detain the dhonies. All the Rungpore rice has been ſent down by the collector of that diſtrict, in conſequence of orders from Government.

I am, &c.

Fort William,
17th January 1783.

(Signed) J. P. AURIOL,
Secretary.

James Peter Auriol, of Calcutta in Bengal, late Agent for Supplies to the other Preſidencies, ſolemnly maketh oath and ſaith, that, during the whole courſe of his continuance in the ſaid employment of Agent, he has made it his invariable rule to procure the beſt rice for exportation, commonly known by the name of cargo rice, which could be purchaſed by wholeſale on reaſonable terms, in the different markets where ſuch purchaſes were occaſionally made; that he did purchaſe and export ſuch rice to the Preſidency of Fort St. George, for the public uſe; that, in conſequence of the rule abovementioned, he did repeatedly and often give poſitive orders to his agents, brokers, and ſervants, employed in the purchaſe of rice for this purpoſe, to be particularly obſervant of the ſaid rule, in looking out for the beſt cargo rice, and that in his conſcience he believes they did obſerve it.

This Deponent further ſaith, that except whilſt he was ill, and obliged for his health to be abſent at Madras, being from the month of January 1781 to the end of September in the ſame year, he did occaſionally examine the muſters of rice brought to him for purchaſe; that he always declined taking any which appeared to him to be bad, or even of indifferent quality, when he thought better was procurable; and that he never authorized his agents, by a general power, to purchaſe any but cargo rice as good as the market could furniſh; however, this Deponent remarks, that in one inſtance (and this is not an exception to the rule above mentioned) about the month of November or December 1782, the only rice which could be purchaſed by wholeſale, in the public markets of Calcutta, was rather indifferent in quality, and he rejected it on that account; but that, after ſeveral days ineffectually ſpent in endeavours to get better, he was obliged to agree to the purchaſe of that rice, called country rice, in order to complete the loading and diſpatch for Madras of ſeveral ſmall veſſels, which had been detained a conſiderable time for rice to fill up their cargoes; and that this quantity of indifferent rice was about 25,000 maunds, which being inſufficient, he added about 17,180 maunds of Rungpore rice, which had been ſent down by the Collector, a great part whereof was ſo bad that it had been rejected.

This Deponent further ſaith, upon his oath, that he employed his brother John Lewis Auriol to aſſiſt him in the buſineſs of the agency; that he was neceſſitated to leave the chief management of the dependant parts of its execution to him, becauſe he had full and ſufficient time to attend to them, which he himſelf, in his other public avocation of Secretary, was unable to command; but that he, nevertheleſs, reſerved to himſelf the general ſuperintendance and direction, and was conſulted by his ſaid brother, John Lewis Auriol, in points of any doubt or difficulty; that he gave the ſaid John Lewis Auriol anthority to make purchaſes of rice, for the more ready and effectual accompliſhment of the duties expected from his agency, and to prevent unneceſſary delays in the loading of veſſels; and that he repeatedly and frequently enjoined the ſaid John Lewis Auriol, when the muſters were not ſhewn to this Deponent, to be particularly careful that all the purchaſes made by him ſhould conſiſt of cargo rice of the firſt quality which was procurable; and this Deponent has no reaſon to believe or ſuſpect that he, in any inſtance, deviated from this injunction.

This

This Deponent further declares, that muſters, which to the beſt of his knowledge and belief were true and impartial muſters of each veſſel's cargo, unleſs, as ſometimes happened, accident prevented their reaching the Captain before he ſailed, were ſent, with letters and invoices, to the Secretary at Fort St. George, in ſmall bags ſealed up for that purpoſe.

And this Deponent doth finally and ſolemnly declare upon his oath, that, throughout the buſineſs of the agency entruſted to him, he hath endeavoured to afford ſatisfaction in the execution of it, having ever had the Company's intereſts in view, and, as far as depended on him, ſcrupulouſly attended to the advantage of the public.

Sworn before me, at Fort William, this fifth day of November 1783. (Signed) J. Hyde. (Signed) J. P. AURIOL.

John Lewis Auriol, of Calcutta in Bengal, maketh oath and ſaith, That his brother, Mr. James Peter Auriol, ſoon after he was appointed Agent for ſupplying the other Preſidencies, being then very ill, and obliged to quit this place on account of his health, committed the truſt of the agency to his charge, conjointly with Cudbert Thornhill, Eſquire, of the ſame place, by a regular and formal power of attorney; and that, in purſuance of inſtructions from the ſaid James Peter Auriol, "to make it his conſtant rule to attend to the qualities of the "ſundry articles he might be required to ſend, and to let them be the beſt in their kinds that "the markets would afford," he, this Deponent, regularly had muſters brought to him of whatever he was ordered to purchaſe, and of rice in particular, and ſeldom or never (to the beſt of his recollection) cloſed a bargain without the concurrence of the ſaid Cudbert Thornhill, or the ſanction of the Council, which at the commencement of the agency he made a point of ſoliciting, and would invariably have continued ſo to do, but for the inconvenience of troubling them on every occaſion, and the caſual alteration of prices, in caſe their approbation ſhould not be ſignified on the ſame * day.—And the ſaid John Lewis Auriol further maketh oath, and ſaith, That he thenceforward judged it beſt for the public ſervice to cloſe bargains conjointly with Captain Thornhill, when he had not ſufficient confidence in his own judgment, or was incompetent to it, without troubling the Council.—And the ſaid John Lewis Auriol further maketh oath, and ſaith, That the then acting Secretary, Mr. Edward Hay, cauſed muſters of every invoice of rice to be ſent under the Company's ſeal, accompanying the ſaid invoice, bill of lading, and letter of advice, by the commander of each ſhip or veſſel (excepting only ſuch as could not wait till they could be prepared) to the Secretary at Fort St. George.—And the ſaid John Lewis Auriol further maketh oath, and ſaith, That he was not a little flattered by the accounts which he received from his brother, when at Madras, of the rice having been approved, and of the teſtimony he procured of its good quality, by a certificate from the Garriſon Storekeeper, which certificate he underſtands has been laid before the Board.—And the ſaid John Lewis Auriol further maketh oath, and ſaith, That on his brother's return, and reſumption of his office, he this Deponent was again authorized to continue the executive charge of the agency, for which he had endeavoured to qualify himſelf, by an unremitted application and faithful attention to his truſt; and that his brother, Mr. J. P. Auriol aforeſaid, did notwithſtanding reſerve an entire controul and general ſuperintendance over the buſineſs to himſelf, in conſequence whereof the ſaid John Lewis Auriol ever required his advice and concurrence in all caſes of moment.—That the quality has always been ſo much attended to in purchaſes made, that out of the various muſters of cargo rice bought, the beſt in quality have ever met with a preference; and this object has been ſo uniformly attended to, that this deponent is firmly perſuaded, that notwithſtanding the rice procurable in the markets in ſuch large quantities was not always of equal goodneſs, and particularly in the inſtance which will be mentioned in the ſequel, yet it was always of unexceptionable quality, and ſuch as the Storekeeper at Madras could have no reaſon to complain of, if the ſame was not damaged in the way there, or exchanged after it had been ſhipped.—And the ſaid John Lewis Auriol further maketh oath, and ſaith, that muſters of rice were generally ſhewn to him for his approbation, and continued to be ſent under the Company's ſeal as before—That the Board's orders of for ſealing the bags themſelves, have, he verily believes, been carried into execution, with as little deviation as the caſe would admit, upon Engliſh veſſels—That as a check, from time to time, upon the

* (Signed) J. H. Was once delayed a day, and the rice according to the muſters delivered in could not be purchaſed the next day at the prices ſpecified. (Signed) J. H.

ſervant's

ſervants employed in the buſineſs, he has generally obtained muſters of the rice ſhipped from the Captains themſelves, to compare with thoſe from which he had purchaſed it, and has never had reaſon to complain of any delinquency on this ſcore. And the ſaid John Lewis Auriol further maketh oath and ſaith, that having upwards of one hundred dhonies, or coaſting veſſels to load, towards the cloſe of the laſt year, and grain becoming extremely ſcarce, he was under the neceſſity of repreſenting to his brother, James Peter Auriol aforeſaid, "that if he did not conſent to "the ſhipping of a quantity of rice" which had been ſent down by the collector at Rungpore on an engagement with Government, and which, though it had been rejected, he averred to be not inferior to a quantity which had been ſhipped on the Tartar Indiaman at Ganjam, for the Preſidency at Fort St. George, but brought here by an alteration in her voyage, and tranſhipped by order of the Board for that Preſidency, to another veſſel, it would be impoſſible to diſpatch all the ſaid veſſels in the proper ſeaſon, and few in time to avoid the danger of falling into the enemy's hand, they proceed towards Bengal, as he, this deponent, then apprehended, unleſs the ſaid veſſels were laden and diſpatched without delay; urging alſo, that the neceſſities of the Preſidency of Fort St. George would be ſuch as to make them prefer that rice, bad as it was, to the loſs of ſo great a portion as the capture of a part, or perhaps the whole, of ſo many veſſels as muſt be delayed for want of cargoes, if the ſaid rice were not allowed to be ſhipped; and that if they were to be detained for the new crop, or the arrival of more rice from Backergunge, they would be in danger of meeting the enemy; a circumſtance which he, this deponent, then apprehended, and which, from the return and declarations of numbers of the lateſt diſpatched ſyrangs, viz. "that they had been taken by the French, their veſſels ſunk, and themſelves ſent "back or landed on the neareſt ſhore," there is but too great reaſon to think would have been the caſe. And the ſaid John Lewis Auriol further maketh oath, and ſaith, That he the ſaid James Peter Auriol, being perſuaded of the force of his argument, conſented, though reluctantly, that the ſaid Rungpore rice ſhould be ſent; that it conſequently was ſhipped, and placed at the bottom of each cargo, that it might ſuſtain the principal damage that might accrue upon the cargoes of the ſaid veſſels, and all the cargo rice that could be got at the market price, to this deponent's knowledge, in or about the town of Calcutta, in any wholeſale quantities, of a merchantable quality, was bought to fill up theſe veſſels and Mr. Touchet's veſſels.—And the ſaid John Lewis Auriol further maketh oath, and ſaith, that the ſaid ſcarcity above alluded to (which, though not ſo alarming, from a plentiful crop on the ground and approaching harveſt, but, as he verily believes, far greater in fact than the preſent actual deficiency) was the occaſion of rice being ſent, which, in times of greater plenty, no conſideration whatever would have induced either him to propoſe, or his brother to have conſented to.

Sworn, this 31ſt day of October 1783, before me,

(Signed) J. Hyde.

(Signed) J. L. AURIOL.

Kiſſenram Boſe, of the town of Calcutta, banyan to James Peter Auriol, Eſquire, of the ſame place, maketh oath and ſaith, that he has been employed by the ſaid James Peter Auriol, Eſquire, ſince the month of December 1780, for the purpoſe of purchaſing rice and other articles, and ſending them to Madras; that he occaſionally received orders and directions from the ſaid James Peter Auriol, Eſquire, but, to avoid delays from his other buſineſs, was more eſpecially placed by him, under the directions and inſtructions of his brother Mr. John Lewis Auriol, who was likewiſe employed in the ſervice of the Agency; that he, this deponent, was repeatedly and particularly ordered and enjoined, by both his principals, always to bring muſters of the beſt cargo rice that could be purchaſed in Calcutta, and never to permit the ſhipping of any which was bad. That he always did enquire for and bring the beſt muſters which were to be found, attending to the ſize, ſoundneſs, and clearneſs of the grain; that he always ſhewed them to Mr. John Lewis Auriol, for his approbation of them, before any bargain was made with the owners, and occaſionally to Mr. Auriol; and that all the rice ſo purchaſed was weighed off, in preſence of an officer or ſircar belonging to the Captain of the ſhip who was to receive it, and delivered according to the muſters: that it was then packed up in bags, and the Company's ſeal affixed to each bag, ſince that was ſo ordered; but he, this deponent, has good grounds to believe that the ſaid ſeal was of no avail, for he frequently heard of the bags being opened and ſtarted, notwithſtanding they were ſo ſealed; that after they were laden, he, this deponent, conſtantly cauſed a muſter of the rice to be put into a ſmall linen bag, which was ſealed up in the Secretary's office with the Company's ſeal, and delivered to the Captain of the

ſhip, with a letter of advice to the Secretary at Madras. This deponent declares, that he firmly believes the rice exported to Madras, on the Company's account, was much better, in general, than the rice commonly exported by private traders; that it was, far the greateſt part of it, fine Backergunge rice, which is the beſt known by the name of cargo rice, and that it was always of this kind when it could be procured; but that in November and December laſt, there being a great ſcarcity of all ſorts of rice in Calcutta, and it being impoſſible to purchaſe a ſufficient quantity of Backergunge rice to complete the loading and diſpatch of all the firſt fleet of dhonies engaged on the Company's account, he, this deponent, did ſtrongly recommend it to his principal, James Peter Auriol, Eſquire, to purchaſe ſuch rice as could be had, and to ſend away the dhonies, for they had been detained a conſiderable time, and the Syrangs were very troubleſome to go; that he, this deponent, did conſequently procure muſters of the beſt country rice then to be had, for this purpoſe, but Mr. Auriol rejected them, and ordered him to enquire for better rice, as he was determined always to ſend the beſt he could get. That this deponent did ſend out from place to place for the ſoundeſt and fulleſt rice which was to be had, but from his enquiries was unable to procure any better than the muſters before produced, without waiting a month for the produce of the new crop; Mr. Auriol did therefore, after ſome time, agree to purchaſe the ſaid rice, and ordered him, this deponent, to ſend it by dhonies to Madras; but this being inſufficient to complete the loading of the firſt fleet of theſe veſſels, he ordered him to ſend alſo on board a quantity of Rungpore rice, which had been ſent down by the Collector, and which was very bad and black, and, as this deponent underſtands, had been rejected: This deponent in all this obeyed the orders he received ſtrictly, and has no reaſon to think that thoſe who acted under him have changed the rice, or admitted of bad rice to be ſhipped. But this deponent further declares, that a quantity of good rice was laden upon Mr. Touchet's veſſels, which were unable to ſail in the fair ſeaſon before laſt, but returned, and that it got wet by leakage, and was landed by Mr. Touchet's people, and dried in the ſun; and that the ſaid rice, with other more indifferent rice to make up the quantity, was afterwards received from them, and ſhipped again on his veſſels which ſailed to Madras in the ſeaſon after, which was in the laſt cold weather.

(Signed) KISSENRAM BOSE.

Sworn before me, at Fort William,
this firſt day of November 1783.
(Signed) J. Hyde.

We, Bydenaut Boſe, Ramchunder Boſe, Cummul Lochun Boſe, and Jaggernaut Tagoor, Gomaſtahs, who have been employed by Mr. Auriol, immediately under Kiſſenram Boſe, in delivering the Company's rice for exportation to Madras to the officers and ſircars of the Captains of the ſhips on which it was loaded, do declare on our oaths that we believe that no other perſons but ourſelves, or perſons under our directions, were employed for that purpoſe; that much the greater part of the ſaid rice delivered by us was good Backergunge rice, and no part of the whole was bad, or really exceptionable in quality, but ſome Rungpore rice delivered from the Cooly Bazar.

(Signed by) BYDENAUT BOSE,
RAMCHUNDER BOSE,
CUMMUL LOCHUR BOSE,
JAGGERNAUT TAGORE.

Sworn before me, at Fort William,
this firſt day of November 1783.
(Signed) J. Hyde.

We, Rogoonaut Kyal, and Bhym, Deputy of Bydenaut Kyal, or Weighman employed by Mr. Auriol under the orders of Kiſſenram Boſe, for the purpoſe of weighing off the Company's rice for exportation to Madras, do ſwear, that we believe that no other perſons but ourſelves, or perſons under our directions, were employed for that purpoſe; that much the greateſt part of the ſaid rice weighed off by us was good Backergunge rice, and no part of the whole was bad

was bad, or really exceptionable in quality, but ſome Rungpore rice delivered from the Cooly, Bazar.

Signature of
Rogoonaut Kyall.

Signature of
Bhym, Naib of
Bydenaut Kyall.

Sworn before me, at Fort William,
this firſt day of November 1783.

J. Hyde.

Captain Thomas Ereth maketh oath and ſaith, That, towards the latter end of February 1783, he was deputed by Mr. J. Auriol, with written inſtructions, extract of which is hereunto annexed, to ſuperintend the lading of rice diſpatched by him to ſundry Indiamen then laying at Culpee and Kedjeree; and, being now called upon to report the quality of the ſaid rice, he declares on his oath, that the bags coming down all ſealed he had not an opportunity of ſeeing the whole, but that ſuch as burſt from the bags on removal from the ſloops, or as he ſaw from other accidents, which frequently happened, was good cargo rice, and rather of a ſuperior quality.—And this deponent further maketh oath and ſaith, that he has frequently obſerved muſters of rice, which have been brought to the ſaid Mr. Auriol in Calcutta when he has been with him, which this deponent underſtood had been purchaſed for the ſupply of the Madras Preſidency, and that the ſame have ever appeared to him to be of a prime quality for exportation.

(Signed) THO. ERETH.

Sworn this 29th day of
October 1783, before me

J. Hyde.

EXTRACT of inſtructions from Mr. J. Auriol, of Calcutta, to Captain Thomas Ereth, dated the 26th February 1783.

Sir,

Having thought proper to depute you to ſuperintend the lading of the Honourable Company's rice on board of their ſhips at Culpee and Kedjeree, I here give you a liſt of them, with the quantity of rice each is to take; viz.

Ships.	Station.	Where bound.		Cargoes in bags. Rice of 2 Md each.	
Kent —	Kedgeree —	Madras —	Compy	2,770	
			Poor	500	
					3,270
Latham —	—	Do. —	Compy	2,400	
			Poor	520	
					2,920
Calcutta —	—	Do. —	Compy	3,000	
			Poor	430	
					3,430
Dutton —	—	Do. —	Compy	3,000	
			Poor	300	
					3,300
Cheſterfield	—	Do. —	Compy	5,500	
			Poor	600	
					6,100
			For Madras —		19,020
Alfred —	Kedjeree —	Bombay —		3,400	Is loaded all but 217 bags; 1 loſt hoiſting in, 16 wet in the hold returned.
Ganges —	Culpee —	Do. —		2,200	
Warren Haſtings	—	Do. —		4,000	
Hawke —	—	Do. —		4,000	
		Bombay —		14,400	

Great

Great part of the above cargoes are already diſpatched and received. The purpoſe of your deputation is to explain and prevent any differences ariſing between the officers or people of the ſhips, and the boats people, or peons, under whoſe charge the rice may be ſent, from their not underſtanding each other, and to ſee that the full quantity which may be ſent to each ſhip is received on board, and that the receipts granted for the ſame are juſt, and without exception againſt weight or any thing elſe. Should any complaints of this kind be made, you are to obviate them by filling up the bags from others, if you ſhall admit their deficiency, on weighing them; and acquaint me in writing with the amount on the whole veſſel, by the peon in charge, that I may oblige him, or the Mangy or Syrang, to make it good on his or their return.

A true Extract.

(Signed) THOMAS ERETH.

Read another letter and encloſures from Mr. Auriol.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

I have been honoured with your reference of yeſterday, reſpecting the cargoes laden by me on the Calcutta, Kent, Major, and Southampton.

The great deficiency remarked in the cargo of the Calcutta ariſes, as the purſer has juſtly ſtated, from the Captain's taking out and returning to town 413 bags of her original lading. As theſe bags were brought up to me, and were the Company's, I could not decline receiving them; but this is not the only inſtance of ſuch an irregularity, as I have already had the honour to repreſent to you, and I think does not in the leaſt invalidate the Company's right to recover freight, at leaſt, for the whole deficiency, from the owners or commanders.

Had the entire lading of the ſhips conſiſted only of the Company's property, and the ſhips been unable to ſail without taking out a part of it, the loſs or inconvenience of leaving it behind muſt of courſe have fallen upon the Company; but when it is well known that the Company's property from port to port in India, being only the charter party tonnage, does not form above half the amount of a full cargo, and the Captains are indulged with the ſurplus, I conceive that the Company's property ought in no caſe to be turned out of the ſhip, which can hardly in any inſtance require to be lightened by half her cargo.

With reſpect to the Kent, a certificate of the amount of her cargo was forwarded by her for the Secretary at Madras, but the bills of lading (as will appear by one which I encloſe) were ſigned by the Purſer after the departure of the ſhip, on the arrival of the officer's receipts in Calcutta, for the quantity of rice which ſhe had actually taken on board.

The letter of Captain Arthur, commander of the Major, explains the caſe of that ſhip: By the propoſed arrangements of ſending horſes by her, and the deduction allowed for them in the charter party tonnage, he had obtained an additional ſpace for ſurplus tonnage, which he filled up with rice on his own account.—When this arrangement was altered, and he was obliged to relinquiſh that additional ſpace to make room for the Company's charter tonnage, it was an advantage both to the Company and to him to transfer the purchaſe of his rice already on board, which ſaved the Company the riſk of tranſporting it to the ſhip at a bad ſeaſon of the year, and him the expence and riſk of unlading and returning it to Calcutta. The muſter of the firſt ſort appears very fine; the ſecond is indifferent, but Captain Arthur had bought it for his own uſe, not the Company's, which is the beſt proof that no want of care for their intereſt exiſted in this tranſaction.

On the cargo of the Southampton, I am ſorry to obſerve, that Captain Lennox's letter, which implies the greateſt irregularities in my Agents employed in loading his ſhip, is looſely written, and appears not perfectly conſiſtent in terms; for in one part it declares, that "ſome "rice was received from the Warren Haſtings, &c.; a few bags of this was marked *poors rice*;" and not many lines afterwards it contains the following paſſage—"The whole quantity "I received was 5065 bags, which was on account of the Honourable Company, and *no* rice "whatever

" whatever was tendered to us for the *poor*, notwithſtanding they have ſent an invoice for 490 " bags." To explain the only irregularity in loading and diſpatching this ſhip, I am happy that your records contain the copy of a letter, which I wrote on the 12th June laſt, to the Secretary at Madras, in the following words:

To Charles Freeman, Eſquire, Secretary to the Right Honourable the Preſident and Council at Fort St. George.

" Sir,

" The encloſed bill of lading for rice ſhipped on the Southampton not ſpecifying the full " quantity which was laden on board, as appears by the officers receipts brought up by the " Serangs in return for their cargoes; I beg leave to tranſmit you an abſtract of them, that " the quantity which has been ſhipped may be demanded, agreeably to the accompanying " corrected invoice. 490 bags of rice, as per incloſed invoice, have alſo been laden on this " ſhip for account of the poor, and conſigned to the Miniſter and Churchwardens; but whe- " ther due attention has been paid to receiving the proper marked bags, amidſt the unavoidable " irregularities which attend the lading of ſhips in ſuch ſituations, I cannot ſay. The officers " receipts from all the Europe ſhips were detained till the actual quantity with which they " might be able to ſail ſhould be aſcertained; but it being impracticable to know this to the " laſt moment, the Calcutta and Latham having actually returned a part of the rice which " they had taken on board, and not one of the ſhips having received the full cargoes prepared " for them, on account of the ſhallowneſs of the river immediately below Culpee and Ked- " jeree, and the uncommon violence of the ſeaſon, which rendered it impoſſible to ſend any " ſloops lower down, they ſailed of courſe without giving regular bills of lading checked by " the officers receipts.

" I am, Sir,

" Your moſt obedient, and

" Fort William,
" the 12th June 1783."

" humble ſervant,

(Signed) " J. P. AURIOL,

" Secry."

" P. S. The Dutton's invoice, correſponding with the bills of lading, is encloſed; the Calcutta's cannot be yet finiſhed, becauſe ſome rice has been returned from that ſhip."

Irregularities and diſappointments are unavoidable, in loading ſhips at Culpee, Kedgeree, and Ingellee, in the blowing month of April, eſpecially with rice, which is heavy, and brings the ſloop ſo deep into the water, that they cannot be alongſide of large ſhips in a high ſea without damage; nor can they, where ſo many ſhips together are to be laden with the ſame kind of goods, be governed by preciſe deſtinations, without loſs of time, as the ſtrength of wind and rapidity may drive them paſt one ſhip, or prevent their reaching another, while they might be able to fetch to a third, and deliver other cargoes.—To obviate all inconveniencies as much as poſſible, I employed at my own expence an active and intelligent European Agent (Captain Erith) to ſuperintend this buſineſs, and he went backward and forwards from ſhip to ſhip when the weather permitted.—I have queſtioned him about the cargo of the Southampton, and beg leave to encloſe his anſwers, which he is willing to confirm upon oath.

I remember well that the Southampton arrived here late in the ſeaſon, and that Captain Lennox preſſed much for a ſpeedy loading, that he might ſail again before the ſeaſon cloſed. It was late in March, and impoſſible at that time to procure river craft for loading all the ſhips without delay; I was therefore obliged to contract with Mr. Barretto, who had rice in his galas at Kedgeree, to lade a quantity directly from thence, otherwiſe the ſhips could not all have got away. To this rice it was impracticable to affix the Company's ſeal; Mr. Barretto

Great part of the above cargoes are already diſpatched and received. The purpoſe of your deputation is to explain and prevent any differences ariſing between the officers or people of the ſhips, and the boats people, or peons, under whoſe charge the rice may be ſent, from their not underſtanding each other, and to ſee that the full quantity which may be ſent to each ſhip is received on board, and that the receipts granted for the ſame are juſt, and without exception againſt weight or any thing elſe. Should any complaints of this kind be made, you are to obviate them by filling up the bags from others, if you ſhall admit their deficiency, on weighing them; and acquaint me in writing with the amount on the whole veſſel, by the peon in charge, that I may oblige him, or the Mangy or Syrang, to make it good on his or their return.

A true Extract.

(Signed) THOMAS ERETH.

Read another letter and encloſures from Mr. Auriol.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

I have been honoured with your reference of yeſterday, reſpecting the cargoes laden by me on the Calcutta, Kent, Major, and Southampton.

The great deficiency remarked in the cargo of the Calcutta ariſes, as the purſer has juſtly ſtated, from the Captain's taking out and returning to town 413 bags of her original lading. As theſe bags were brought up to me, and were the Company's, I could not decline receiving them; but this is not the only inſtance of ſuch an irregularity, as I have already had the honour to repreſent to you, and I think does not in the leaſt invalidate the Company's right to recover freight, at leaſt, for the whole deficiency, from the owners or commanders.

Had the entire lading of the ſhips conſiſted only of the Company's property, and the ſhips been unable to ſail without taking out a part of it, the loſs or inconvenience of leaving it behind muſt of courſe have fallen upon the Company; but when it is well known that the Company's property from port to port in India, being only the charter party tonnage, does not form above half the amount of a full cargo, and the Captains are indulged with the ſurplus, I conceive that the Company's property ought in no caſe to be turned out of the ſhip, which can hardly in any inſtance require to be lightened by half her cargo.

With reſpect to the Kent, a certificate of the amount of her cargo was forwarded by her for the Secretary at Madras, but the bills of lading (as will appear by one which I encloſe) were ſigned by the Purſer after the departure of the ſhip, on the arrival of the officer's receipts in Calcutta, for the quantity of rice which ſhe had actually taken on board.

The letter of Captain Arthur, commander of the Major, explains the caſe of that ſhip: By the propoſed arrangements of ſending horſes by her, and the deduction allowed for them in the charter party tonnage, he had obtained an additional ſpace for ſurplus tonnage, which he filled up with rice on his own account.—When this arrangement was altered, and he was obliged to relinquiſh that additional ſpace to make room for the Company's charter tonnage, it was an advantage both to the Company and to him to transfer the purchaſe of his rice already on board, which ſaved the Company the riſk of tranſporting it to the ſhip at a bad ſeaſon of the year, and him the expence and riſk of unlading and returning it to Calcutta. The muſter of the firſt ſort appears very fine; the ſecond is indifferent, but Captain Arthur had bought it for his own uſe, not the Company's, which is the beſt proof that no want of care for their intereſt exiſted in this tranſaction.

On the cargo of the Southampton, I am ſorry to obſerve, that Captain Lennox's letter, which implies the greateſt irregularities in my Agents employed in loading his ſhip, is looſely written, and appears not perfectly conſiſtent in terms; for in one part it declares, that "ſome "rice was received from the Warren Haſtings, &c.; a few bags of this was marked *poors rice*;" and not many lines afterwards it contains the following paſſage—"The whole quantity "I received was 5065 bags, which was on account of the Honourable Company, and *no* rice "whatever

" whatever was tendered to us for the *poor*, notwithſtanding they have ſent an invoice for 490 " bags." To explain the only irregularity in loading and diſpatching this ſhip, I am happy that your records contain the copy of a letter, which I wrote on the 12th June laſt, to the Secretary at Madras, in the following words:

To Charles Freeman, Eſquire, Secretary to the Right Honourable the Preſident and Council at Fort St. George.

" Sir,

" The encloſed bill of lading for rice ſhipped on the Southampton not ſpecifying the full " quantity which was laden on board, as appears by the officers receipts brought up by the " Serangs in return for their cargoes; I beg leave to tranſmit you an abſtract of them, that " the quantity which has been ſhipped may be demanded, agreeably to the accompanying " corrected invoice. 490 bags of rice, as per incloſed invoice, have alſo been laden on this " ſhip for account of the poor, and conſigned to the Miniſter and Churchwardens; but whe- " ther due attention has been paid to receiving the proper marked bags, amidſt the unavoidable " irregularities which attend the lading of ſhips in ſuch ſituations, I cannot ſay. The officers " receipts from all the Europe ſhips were detained till the actual quantity with which they " might be able to ſail ſhould be aſcertained; but it being impracticable to know this to the " laſt moment, the Calcutta and Latham having actually returned a part of the rice which " they had taken on board, and not one of the ſhips having received the full cargoes prepared " for them, on account of the ſhallowneſs of the river immediately below Culpee and Ked- " jeree, and the uncommon violence of the ſeaſon, which rendered it impoſſible to ſend any " ſloops lower down, they ſailed of courſe without giving regular bills of lading checked by " the officers receipts.

" I am, Sir,

" Your moſt obedient, and

" Fort William,
" the 12th June 1783."

" humble ſervant,

(Signed) " J. P. AURIOL,

" Secry."

" P. S. The Dutton's invoice, correſponding with the bills of lading, is encloſed; the Calcutta's cannot be yet finiſhed, becauſe ſome rice has been returned from that ſhip."

Irregularities and diſappointments are unavoidable, in loading ſhips at Culpee, Kedgeree, and Ingellee, in the blowing month of April, eſpecially with rice, which is heavy, and brings the ſloop ſo deep into the water, that they cannot be alongſide of large ſhips in a high ſea without damage; nor can they, where ſo many ſhips together are to be laden with the ſame kind of goods, be governed by preciſe deſtinations, without loſs of time, as the ſtrength of wind and rapidity may drive them paſt one ſhip, or prevent their reaching another, while they might be able to fetch to a third, and deliver other cargoes.—To obviate all inconveniencies as much as poſſible, I employed at my own expence an active and intelligent European Agent (Captain Erith) to ſuperintend this buſineſs, and he went backward and forwards from ſhip to ſhip when the weather permitted.—I have queſtioned him about the cargo of the Southampton, and beg leave to encloſe his anſwers, which he is willing to confirm upon oath.

I remember well that the Southampton arrived here late in the ſeaſon, and that Captain Lennox preſſed much for a ſpeedy loading, that he might ſail again before the ſeaſon cloſed. It was late in March, and impoſſible at that time to procure river craft for loading all the ſhips without delay; I was therefore obliged to contract with Mr. Barretto, who had rice in his galas at Kedgeree, to lade a quantity directly from thence, otherwiſe the ſhips could not all have got away. To this rice it was impracticable to affix the Company's ſeal; Mr. Barretto

even remonſtrated againſt the delay of marking the bags; but the Southampton had none of it. The quantity of rice laden on the Southampton, as per the Officer's receipts in my poſſeſſion, a liſt of which I encloſed with the above letter to Madras, was 5,755 bags; but Captain Lennox only mentions to have received 5,065 bags. By my account his cargo was compoſed as follows:

	Bags
Tranſhipped from the Warren Haſtings, which ſhip was obliged to be lightened -	2,559
N. B. I believe a part of this was delivered on board by the two Balaſore veſſels mentioned by Captain Ereth, which were originally deſtined for the Warren Haſtings, and the Officers receipts corroborate it. (Tranſhipped from the Mermaid, a Dhony, laden in the month of December, but returned leaky, her cargo having been originally 1,700 bags) — — — — —	1,500
Delivered by the ſloop Bulramperſaud from Calcutta — — —	1,696
Total bags —	5,755

Fortunately I have found muſters of rice transferred from the Warren Haſtings, and of that ſent down in the Bulramperſaud, which laſt conſiſted of two ſorts. I have the honour to lay them before you; the firſt was weighed off in preſence of Captain Larkin's Sircar, and the weighmen, who weighed both that and the cargo of the Bulramperſaud, are ready to be ſworn to the authenticity of the muſters, if you think proper to call on them.

I have no muſter of the rice delivered from the Mermaid, and muſt therefore reſt the goodneſs of its quality on the evidence of Captain Ereth; to which I beg leave to add, that 200 bags of it were part of the red rice, or Auguſt crop, which I had been obliged to purchaſe in December, when no other rice could be procured; but this, I truſt, I have accounted for, and explained to your ſatisfaction, in my Addreſs of the 31ſt ultimo, and the affidavits which accompanied it.

I come now to ſpeak of the muſters received from Madras, which I muſt ſuppoſe have been impartially taken, though I can neither reconcile them with my muſters, nor with the quantities of which the different aſſortments of the cargo conſiſted; but I feel a ſatisfaction at ſeeing in this inſtance, a ſpecification of complaint, which enables me to reply to it with greater certainty than to a general charge.

The muſter No. 1, is ſaid to be of 2310 bags; and certainly yet appears to be good cargo rice.

No. 2. Is a muſter of mixed rice, which is red and very indifferent; of this ſort there are ſaid to be 1948 bags.

No. 3. Is ſtill worſe, and ſaid to conſiſt of 679 bags.

No. 4. Appears to have been the ſame rice as No. 1, but is totally damaged; and conſiſts of only 134 bags.

Theſe four ſorts make together 5071 bags, that is to ſay, 6 bags more than Captain Lennox in his letter acknowledges to have received.

The ſhip ſailed from Kedgeree before the muſters of her cargo could with certainty be put up, and the bill of lading, which in the common courſe they would have accompanied, was diſpatched by the Dawk.—My letter to the Secretary, above entered, will in ſome meaſure account for this, and explain the circumſtance of the poor's rice, which was of the ſame quality as the other.

Before I conclude, I beg leave alſo to explain the circumſtance mentioned by Captain Lennox, of one veſſel's having brought her cargo in bulk, which was put into bags at Kedgeree.—This was the Mermaid.—The Serangs of the Dhonies diſpatched in December, while their veſſels were lading, repreſented, that in the preceding ſeaſon ſome of them had been ſtopped by

by the French cruizers in the Bay, and that all the rice which was diſcovered or alledged to belong to the Company, had been ſeized and deſtroyed; but that many of the dhonies, containing only private property, had been allowed to eſcape, with the loſs only of ſuch trifling articles as were immediately wanted by the enemy; the Serangs therefore requeſted that the Company's ſeal and mark might be diſpenſed with on this occaſion, and for this reaſon were allowed, as they had no rice on board but the Company's, to ſtart it in the hold over the bags which had contained.

Fort William,
11th November 1783.

I have the honour to be, with reſpect, &c.

(Signed) J. P. AURIOL.

LIST of Receipts granted for rice laden on the Southampton, Captain John Lennox, viz.

1783.		
April 1ſt.	One Receipt, ſigned Richard Meriton — —	300 Bags.
6.	One Ditto — Ditto Ditto — — —	530
13.	One Ditto — Ditto Charles Lennox — —	1,500
23.	One Ditto — Ditto Ditto — — —	393
25.	One Ditto — Ditto Ditto — — — —	406
26.	One Ditto — Ditto Ditto — — —	420
	One Ditto — Ditto Ditto — — — —	410
May 11.	One Ditto — Ditto Ditto — — — —	100
25th.	Certificate of William Bowey, Maſter Attendant, that no receipt was granted for the rice cleared from the Bulramperſaud ſloop, becauſe included in the bill of lading, but that ſhe had delivered to the Southampton — — — —	1,696
	Bags — —	5,755

N. B. There is beſides a memorandum from Captain Ereth of 140 bags ſhipped, for which no receipt was given.

(Signed) J. P. AURIOL, Secretary.

QUESTIONS put by Mr. Auriol to Captain Thomas Ereth; the anſwers to which he is ready to atteſt upon oath.

You were employed by me, in March and April laſt, to ſuperintend the loading of rice on board the Europe ſhips at Culpee and Kedgeree; do you remember having laden any on the Southampton?

Anſ. I remember loading a part of the Souththamton's rice in April laſt; but I was taken ill and obliged to come up to Calcutta for my health before it was compleated.

Relate what you know of the rice delivered on board the Southampton, particularly of its quality, and whence it came.

Anſ. 1,500 bags were delivered from the Mermaid, a country Snow, which had returned leaky to Kedgeree; this rice had been ſtarted; a ſmall quantity at top, about 300 bags, was red rice, but the reſt was all of a good quality. The officers of the Southampton attended on board to receive it, and wers deſired only to take the good rice; there was ſome of it damaged, rather more than 200 bags, which they did not take; and there were weights and ſcales on board the Mermaid, to weigh it off to them. There were two Balaſore veſſels, laden with rice, which arrived from town at the Southampton, while I was there, and delivered their cargoes

cargoes on Board. I believe the bags were ſealed; I never ſaw any bags ſent from Calcutta, by you which were not ſealed. But I did not take notice of the quality of the rice from the Balaſore veſſels. I do not know what was received from the Warren Haſtings, but I loaded her cargo; I remember that the bags were ſealed, and all I ſaw of the rice was very good. Mr. Bolts, agent to Mr. Barretto at Kedgeree, was to have ſhipped a quantity of rice to compleat the Southampton's cargo, and told me that my ſtaying there was of no uſe, for that he would ſee it done. Ill as I was, I ſhould not have come up if he had not told me this; but the day after I left Kedgeree I underſtand he declined doing it; and I dot not know any thing further, or from whence the Southampton's cargo was compleated.

Queſt. Look at theſe ſamples.—What do you think of them? [Shewing him the ſamples received from Madras.]

Anſ. The firſt ſort appears to have been very good rice, and the damaged rice ſeems to have been of the ſame quality. The ſecond ſort is a mixed rice, and may have been taken from the top of the Mermaid's cargo, which conſiſted of a ſmall quantity of red rice thrown a top of the good rice. The third is a coarſe red rice; I never remember to have ſeen any of this ſort among what you ſent down.

Calcutta, (Signed) THOMAS ERETH.
13th November 1783.

Shipped, by the Grace of God, in good order, and well conditioned, by the Honourable Warren Haſtings, Eſquire, Governor General and Council, at Fort William, in and upon the good ſhip called the Kent, whereof is Maſter, under God, for this preſent voyage, Captain Peter Stoakes; Commander, and now riding at anchor at Kedgeree, and by God's Grace bound for Fort George, to ſay, one thouſand one hundred and ſixty bags of rice (1160) containing Bazar Maunds two thouſand three hundred and twenty (2320) being marked and numbered as per margin, and are to be delivered in the like good-order, and well conditioned, at the aforeſaid port of Fort St. George (the danger of the ſeas only excepted) unto the Right Honourable George Lord Macartney, Preſident and Council there, or to their aſſigns, he or they paying freight for the ſaid goods, being paid with primage and average accuſtomed. In witneſs whereof the maſter or purſer of the ſaid ſhip hath affirmed to three bills of lading, all of this tenor and date, the one of which three bills being accompliſhed, the other two to ſtand void. And ſo God ſend the good ſhip to her deſired port in ſafety. Amen.

(Signed) JAMES MITCHELL, Purſer.
Dated in Calcutta, 19th June 1783.

Printed for James Woodmaſon, No. 149, Leadenhall-ſtreet.

Read two letters, as follow, from Captains Arthur and Lennox.

Sir,

In anſwer to your letter of the 13th of November, "requeſting to be informed whether "myſelf or any of my officers were preſent at ſelecting the muſters of rice, and how any part "of it came to be damaged, and what is my opinion of the quality of the whole, when it was "landed"—am to acquaint you, I ſaw the muſters at Madras, though I was not preſent at the ſelecting of them. A conſiderable part of the rice was damaged by the bad weather which we met with in our paſſage, and which I proteſted againſt on my arrival; but as to the quality of the whole, when it was landed, I cannot ſpeak, having only ſeen a ſmall part thereof, which was chiefly what had been damaged by the bad weather.

I am, with reſpect,

November 22d, 1783. (Signed) DAVID ARTHUR.

Wm. Bruere, Eſquire.

Sir.

Sir,

In anſwer to your letter of the 13th inſtant, reſpecting the rice landed at Madras from the Southampton, the quality of which the Madras Council have complained of to your Honourable Board; I have only to ſay, that I never was called upon to ſee the muſters of rice ſelected, neither was my purſer, nor any other perſon belonging to the ſhip; and as to the rice which they ſay was damaged, it muſt have received it after the delivery from the ſhip, as the bags were then perfectly dry, and had no appearance of damage: but I beg leave to remark, that after it was landed, a great part of it lay for a conſiderable time on the beach, during which time a great deal of rain fell, and from that cauſe the rice muſt have received the damage complained of: I was ſo well convinced of this, that I would not admit of any damage when he got up our bill of lading. And in regard to the quality of the rice in general, I am a total ſtranger to it; for, as the bags were ſound and dry, I did not inſpect into them; but any of it that I have accidentally ſeen, was ſound cargo rice.

I am, &c.

Calcutta, 11th November 1783. (Signed) JOHN LENNOX.

Read a letter, as follows, from Mr. Auriol.

To William Bruere, Eſquire, Aſſiſtant Secretary.

Sir,

Having obtained permiſſion from the Honourable the Governor General and Council to proceed to England, I requeſt that you will be pleaſed to ſend me an order to Captain Snow, to receive me, with one European ſervant, on board the Winterton.

You will oblige me likewiſe by including my brother, Captain Charles Auriol, of his Majeſty's ſervice, in the order, with a Caffree ſervant to attend him.

Fort William, I am, &c.

24th November 1783. (Signed) J. P. AURIOL.

Ordered, That Captain Snow be directed to accommodate Mr. Auriol and his brother, with one European and one Caffree ſervant, with a paſſage to Europe on the Winterton.

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, the 26th January, 1784.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

I have now the honour to report to you, that on an examination of the accounts of the late Agent for ſupplying the other Preſidencies, for the months of July, Auguſt, September, and October laſt, I find them to be correct in their additions and calculations; that they correſpond with thoſe of the Treaſury in the ſums charged in the latter as advanced to him; that the ſums charged in his account correſpond with the invoices of Supplies ſent to the other Preſidencies; and that the commiſſion is accurately computed by thoſe rules which have been authorized by the Honourable Board's order of the 25th March 1782.

cargoes on Board. I believe the bags were ſealed; I never ſaw any bags ſent from Calcutta, by you which were not ſealed. But I did not take notice of the quality of the rice from the Balaſore veſſels. I do not know what was received from the Warren Haſtings, but I loaded her cargo; I remember that the bags were ſealed, and all I ſaw of the rice was very good. Mr. Bolts, agent to Mr. Barretto at Kedgeree, was to have ſhipped a quantity of rice to compleat the Southampton's cargo, and told me that my ſtaying there was of no uſe, for that he would ſee it done. Ill as I was, I ſhould not have come up if he had not told me this; but the day after I left Kedgeree I underſtand he declined doing it; and I dot not know any thing further, or from whence the Southampton's cargo was compleated.

Queſt. Look at theſe ſamples.—What do you think of them? [Shewing him the ſamples received from Madras.]

Anſ. The firſt ſort appears to have been very good rice, and the damaged rice ſeems to have been of the ſame quality. The ſecond ſort is a mixed rice, and may have been taken from the top of the Mermaid's cargo, which conſiſted of a ſmall quantity of red rice thrown a top of the good rice. The third is a coarſe red rice; I never remember to have ſeen any of this ſort among what you ſent down.

Calcutta, (Signed) THOMAS ERETH.
13th November 1783.

Shipped, by the Grace of God, in good order, and well conditioned, by the Honourable Warren Haſtings, Eſquire, Governor General and Council, at Fort William, in and upon the good ſhip called the Kent, whereof is Maſter, under God, for this preſent voyage, Captain Peter Stoakes, Commander, and now riding at anchor at Kedgeree, and by God's Grace bound for Fort George, to ſay, one thouſand one hundred and ſixty bags of rice (1160) containing Bazar Maunds two thouſand three hundred and twenty (2320) being marked and numbered as per margin, and are to be delivered in the like good order, and well conditioned, at the aforeſaid port of Fort St. George (the danger of the ſeas only excepted) unto the Right Honourable George Lord Macartney, Preſident and Council there, or to their aſſigns, he or they paying freight for the ſaid goods, being paid with primage and average accuſtomed. In witneſs whereof the maſter or purſer of the ſaid ſhip hath affirmed to three bills of lading, all of this tenor and date, the one of which three bills being accompliſhed, the other two to ſtand void. And ſo God ſend the good ſhip to her deſired port in ſafety. Amen.

(Signed) JAMES MITCHELL, Purſer.
Dated in Calcutta, 19th June 1783.

Printed for James Woodmaſon, No. 149, Leadenhall-ſtreet.

Read two letters, as follow, from Captains Arthur and Lennox.

Sir,

In anſwer to your letter of the 13th of November, "requeſting to be informed whether "myſelf or any of my officers were preſent at ſelecting the muſters of rice, and how any part "of it came to be damaged, and what is my opinion of the quality of the whole, when it was "landed"—am to acquaint you, I ſaw the muſters at Madras, though I was not preſent at the ſelecting of them. A conſiderable part of the rice was damaged by the bad weather which we met with in our paſſage, and which I proteſted againſt on my arrival; but as to the quality of the whole, when it was landed, I cannot ſpeak, having only ſeen a ſmall part thereof, which was chiefly what had been damaged by the bad weather.

I am, with reſpect,

November 22d, 1783. (Signed) DAVID ARTHUR.

Wm. Bruere, Eſquire.

Sir.

Sir,

In anſwer to your letter of the 13th inſtant, reſpecting the rice landed at Madras from the Southampton, the quality of which the Madras Council have complained of to your Honourable Board; I have only to ſay, that I never was called upon to ſee the muſters of rice ſelected, neither was my purſer, nor any other perſon belonging to the ſhip; and as to the rice which they ſay was damaged, it muſt have received it after the delivery from the ſhip, as the bags were then perfectly dry, and had no appearance of damage: but I beg leave to remark, that after it was landed, a great part of it lay for a conſiderable time on the beach, during which time a great deal of rain fell, and from that cauſe the rice muſt have received the damage complained of: I was ſo well convinced of this, that I would not admit of any damage when he got up our bill of lading. And in regard to the quality of the rice in general, I am a total ſtranger to it; for, as the bags were ſound and dry, I did not inſpect into them; but any of it that I have accidentally ſeen, was ſound cargo rice.

I am, &c.

Calcutta, 11th November 1783. (Signed) JOHN LENNOX.

Read a letter, as follows, from Mr. Auriol.

To William Bruere, Eſquire, Aſſiſtant Secretary.

Sir,

Having obtained permiſſion from the Honourable the Governor General and Council to proceed to England, I requeſt that you will be pleaſed to ſend me an order to Captain Snow, to receive me, with one European ſervant, on board the Winterton.

You will oblige me likewiſe by including my brother, Captain Charles Auriol, of his Majeſty's ſervice, in the order, with a Caffree ſervant to attend him.

Fort William, I am, &c.

24th November 1783. (Signed) J. P. AURIOL.

Ordered, That Captain Snow be directed to accommodate Mr. Auriol and his brother, with one European and one Caffree ſervant, with a paſſage to Europe on the Winterton.

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, the 26th January, 1784.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

I have now the honour to report to you, that on an examination of the accounts of the late Agent for ſupplying the other Preſidencies, for the months of July, Auguſt, September, and October laſt, I find them to be correct in their additions and calculations; that they correſpond with thoſe of the Treaſury in the ſums charged in the latter as advanced to him; that the ſums charged in his account correſpond with the invoices of Supplies ſent to the other Preſidencies; and that the commiſſion is accurately computed by thoſe rules which have been authorized by the Honourable Board's order of the 25th March 1782.

LIST of Accounts examined, and herewith ſubmitted to the Honourable Board.

Abſtract Account of Receipts and Diſburſements for July 1783.
Ditto — Ditto — Ditto — Auguſt
Ditto — Ditto — Ditto — September
Ditto — Ditto — Ditto — October

July 1783.—Account deficiency of the Creſpigny's cargo, invoiced 22d February 1782.

Ditto.—Corrections of the Agent's accounts, upon an examination of them by him with the vouchers for July 1783.

Auguſt 1783.—Account deficiency of the three Latchemenarſemuloo returned.

Auguſt 1783.—Account deficiency of the ſloop Juggermochloo returned.

September 1783.—Account ſale of rice, and other grains, &c. ſold at public ſale the 20th June 1783, on account of the Honourable Company.

Ditto.—Deficiency of rice and St. Helena ſtores, re-landed from the Europe ſhips in May and June 1783, and ſold by public auction by the Honourable Company's Vendue Maſter.

Ditto.—Account of diſburſements for demurrage of bhurs diſpatched to the Europe ſhips at Culpee and Kedgeree with grain and ſtores, as decided in their favour by the Court of Requeſts.

September 1783.—Account deficiency of rice re-landed from Samuel Touchet's veſſel in May 1783, and ſold at public auction by the Honourable Company's Vendue Maſter.

October 1783.—Ditto Ditto of the cargo laden on the Cheſterfield, in May laſt, for the Preſidency of Fort St. George, which was landed when ſhe returned leaky, and ſince re-ſhipped for the Garriſon at Mangole.

Ditto.—Charges incurred in April and May 1783, in landing rice from Samuel Touchet's veſſels.

I have the honour to be, &c.

12th January 1784. (Signed) Wm. LARKINS,
Accountant General.

Ordered, That the accounts ſubmitted with this letter be paſſed, and returned to the Accountant General, to be entered on the Company's books.

EXTRACT

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, 3d June 1784.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

Our Garriſon Storekeeper has delivered to us an account of rice and minnamaloo received here from ſix veſſels lately arrived from Bengal, a copy of which we herewith ſend you. We have credited your Preſidency for the quantities agreeably to the invoices, and have debited you for the deficiencies, which are ſo conſiderable, that we think it neceſſary to give you this particular information, accompanied by the declarations upon oath of five of the ſerangs, that you may be able to determine on whom the loſs ought to fall, and to take the neceſſary ſteps in conſequence.

We are, &c.

Fort St. George,
10th May, 1784.

(Signed)

MACARTNEY.
A. SADLEIR.
ALEX. DAVIDSON.
JOHN TURING.
C. B. DENT.
R. MAUNSELL.

Ordered, That the encloſures in the above Letter be entered in the Appendix; and that Mr. J. L. Auriol be called upon to furniſh the Board with ſuch intelligence, relating to the veſſels therein mentioned, as may have come to his knowledge.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

A ſnow, named the Sally, having ſome time ſince imported here from Bengal, the Agent of the owner informed us, that there was a quantity of ſalt proviſions on board, ſhipped for our uſe upon that veſſel, at your Preſidency, on the Honourable Company's account, and that it was conſigned to us. Though we had received no regular advice of this particular ſupply, we thought it proper to direct the Garriſon Storekeeper to take charge of it; but he declared it to be in ſuch bad condition, that at his requeſt the Town Major, the Maſter Attendant, and Mr. Antonio de Souza, were appointed by us to examine it, and we herewith encloſe to you a copy of their report. As the proviſions appeared from thence to be totally unfit for uſe, and only 128 tierces had been landed out of 320 tierces ſaid to be on board, we have accepted an offer made to us by the Agent to the owners of the Sally, to carry the remainder back to Calcutta, at the freight of one rupee per caſk, that you may recover the amount of thoſe decayed proviſions from the perſons who provided them; and as their value would not actually have paid the expence of landing them.

We are, &c.

Fort St. George,
14 May, 1784.

(Signed)

MACARTNEY.
A. SADLEIR.
ALEX. DAVIDSON.
JOHN TURING.
C. B. DENT.
R. MAUNSELL.

To

To the Right Honou rable George Lord Macartney, Preſident and Governor, &c. Council.

My Lord, and Gentlemen,

In obedience to your commands ſignified to us the 23d inſtant, we have examined the ſalt proviſions and caſks which have been already landed from the ſnow Sally, in No. 128 (the reſt being ſtill on board); find them to be in the following ſtate:

			Fit for preſent Uſe.		Unfit for any Uſe.
Beef	— Caſks	—	12	—	— 20
Pork	— Caſks	—	2	—	— 94
			14		114
					Total 128

The beef is not of a fit quality for ſalting, being very poor, ſhrinks extremely when boiled, and has but little nouriſhment in it; the pork much decayed, and part of it rotten. We alſo find that the caſks are not properly ſecured, having only ſix hoops each, whereas it is cuſtomary, and particularly neceſſary for the preſervation of ſalt proviſions, that they ſhould have eight, of which there ought to be two at each end, called chime hoops; but as there is only one, the conſequence of this deficiency has been, that many of the caſks of proviſions are entirely without pickle.

We have the honour to be, &c.

Fort St. George,
30th April, 1784.

(Signed) W. SYDENHAM,
JOHN THOMPSON.
ANTONIO DE SOUZA.

A true Copy,

(Signed) Charles Freeman, Secretary.

The Secretary, in conſequence of the above Letter, called upon Mr. Harris, the Executor to Mr. Touchet, for an explanation of the circumſtances therein related; and ſubmits his reply; viz.

To William Bruere, Eſquire.

Sir,

The beef and pork was originally ordered by Mr. James Peter Auriol to be ſent to Madraſs, and was ſhipped in January 1783, on the Omeedpore Grab, for Madraſs; which veſſel, from the loſs of her maſt, put back, and ſtruck upon one of the ſands coming in, and received ſo much damage as to ſink near Moyapore: The proviſions were ſaved, and got on ſhore; and in Auguſt or September laſt, it was ſhipped on the Sally, and the bills of lading delivered to Mr. James Miller.

The

The impoſſibility of getting ſeconnies and a crew delayed her going then, and the embargo put an abſolute ſtop to her, as it was only a part of her cargo, and ſhe was detained in hopes of being permitted to carry the remaining part of the cargo in rice; but this indulgence not being granted, ſhe was filled with ghunny, twine, &c. and diſpatched in February.

Calcutta,
3d June, 1784.

I am, &c.

HERBERT HARRIS.

Ordered, That Mr. Auriol be required to ſtate ſuch particulars relating to the above ſubject, as he may be able to collect from the correſpondence of the late Agent for Supplies, or from the orders of the Board regarding it.

Ordered alſo, That a Copy of the Letter from St. George, together with the report on the proviſions encloſed, be ſent to Mr. Harris; and that he be directed to inform the Board, whether he reported the return of the Omedpore, and by whoſe authority he ſent the proviſions on board the Sally. The Board are concerned that he ſhould think of ſending proviſions which he muſt have known to be old, and unfit for ſtore.

ACCOUNT of Rice and Menumoloo received here lately per different Veſſels, which were diſpatched from Bengal in December 1782.

	Names of the Veſſels.	Names of the Syrang.	As per Invoice, dated December 1782. Bags. Md.	Received at Madras. Bags Md.	Delivered at Coringa. Md.	Common Allowance of Deficiency, at 4 and 5 per Ct. Md.	Extraordinary Deficiency. Md.	REMARKS.
No. 1.	Sloop Stree Vencataſeverlo —	Singadula Chitanandoo	1,650 - 3,300	1,488 2,545 4	—	132	622 78	The Syrangs of theſe veſſels declare, That being diſpatched from Calcutta at the time French ſhips were cruizing in the bay in order to avoid the enemy, they put into Vizagapatam and Coringa, where their cargoes were landed.— The Syrangs of the Stree Vencataſhala, Stree Ramloo, and Stree Jugungekiloo, No. 4, 5, and 6, aſſert they were boarded by the French; and alſo meeting with bad weather, they threw over-board part of their cargoes; and, owing to theſe circumſtances, the length of time ſince the rice was firſt ſhipped, and its being twice removed, may be aſcribed the extraordinary deficiency that has ariſen, for which they are unable to anſwer, and do not think it reaſonable their owners ſhould be deemed reſponſible.
2.	Do. Do. Vencataſhaloo —	Pedroo —	900 - 1,800	712 1,255 2	412 56	72	60 24	
3.	Do. Do. Vencatarwarloo	Ravoo Nanchary	450 - 900	396 719 80	—	45	135 2	
4	Do. Do. Vencataſhaloo —	Penapoloo Alcharloo	1,740 - 3,480	1,560 2,625 39	—	139	715 43	
5.	Doney Stree Ramloo —	Chanooſtry Ramaloo	2,100 - 4,200	1,920 3,416 70	—	168	615 12	
6.	Stree Jungungekiloo —	Cauna Condia	4,200 - 8,400	— 5,655 70½	—	336	2,408 11½	
	Memimoloo —	—	11,040 22,080	— 16,218 19½	412 56	892	4,557 6	
	Sloop Stree Vencataſhalo —	Ravoo Nanchary	1,230 - 2,460	1,230 2,247 58	—	123	89 24	

A true Copy,

(Signed) Charles Freeman, Secretary.

(Signed) JOHN TURING,

Garriſon Storekeeper.

TRANSLATION of a Declaration of Patries, Syrang of a ſloop called Streevencalaſaloo.

In the year 1782, month of December, have got the rice on board from Bengal, for freight to the Honourable Company; when I was coming to Madras, having met with French ſhips, for, in order to 'ſcape, gone to Corange, where I landed the cargo in the month of February, and delivered them to the Gentlemen of that place; they diſpoſe part of the cargo that were damaged, the remainder of the cargo taken on board came to Madras, delivered to the Garriſon Storekeeper, and found there was 60Md. and 24lb. of rice deficiency; as the rice was landed and loaded in two different ports, is alſo this long time paſt, therefore have met the deficiency.

I do give this declaration on my conſcience.

(Signed) PATRISA, ✻ his mark.

Fort St George,
Sworn before me, this
28th April 1784. (Signed) Alexr Davidſon,
Juſtice.

TRANSLATION of a Declaration of Ravoo Naucharoo, Syrang of a Sloop called Streevencataſaloo.

In the year 1782, month of December, I have got the rice on board the ſaid veſſel from Bengal, for freight to the Honourable Company; while I was coming to Madras have ſeen the French ſhips; and when I was running away, in order to 'ſcape, we then thrown out ſome bags of rice into the ſea, and the remainder I have landed at Vizagapatam, and long time after came to Madras, and deliver the rice to the Garriſon Storekeeper: The deficiency found in the ſaid veſſel are as follows; viz.

		Md.	Pd.
Rice	—	135	2
Woodalee	—	89	24

I do give this declaration on my conſcience.

(Signed) RAVOO his ✕ mark. NAUCHAROO.

Fort St. George,
Sworn before me, this
28th of April 1784. (Signed) Alexr Davidſon,
Juſtice.

TRANSLATION of a Declaration Penapaloo Aucharlo, Syrang of a Sloop called Streevencataſaloo.

In the year 1782, month of December, I have got the rice on board the ſaid veſſel from Bengal, for freight to the Honourable Company: While I was coming to Madras taken by the French: they thrown out ſome bags of rice out of the veſſels into the ſea, and, after they gave much trouble to us, they let us go; upon which I arrived to Vizagapatam, where I landed the rice, and delivered to the gentlemen of that place, and afterwards got the ſaid rice back on board, delivered them to the Garriſon Storekeeper of Madras; excluſive of the uſual waſtage, found there was Mds 715 and 43 Pds deficiency. Thus I do give this declaration on my conſcience.

The Signature of PENAPALOO
AUCHARLOO.

Fort St. George,
Sworn before me, this
28th of April 1784. (Signed) Alexr Davidſon,
Juſtice.

TRANS-

TRANSLATION of a Declaration of Chinnaraunadoo, Syrang of a Sloop called Streeraumole.

In the year 1782, month of December, have taken the rice for freight on board the ſaid veſſel from Bengal, to the Honourable Company; and while I was coming to Madras, I was taken by the French, and they have thrown out ſome bags of rice into the ſea, and gave much trouble to us, and then let us go away, whereupon arrived to Corange, where I landed the rice, and deliver them to the gentlemen of that place, and load the ſaid rice back; arrived to Madras, and deliver all the rice that was in that veſſel to the Garriſon Storekeeper; excluſive of the uſual waſtage, found 615 M^as and 12 pounds of rice was deficiency. Thus I do give this declaration on my conſcience.

(Signed) CHINNARAUNADOO his ✕ mark.

Fort St. George,
28th April 1784,
Sworn before me, this day.

(Signed) Alex^r Davidſon,
Juſtice.

TRANSLATION of a declaration of Canna Condein, the Syrang of a ſloop called Jagennanyacorlee.

In the year 1782, month of December, have got the rice on board the ſaid ſloop, for freight from Bengal to the Honourable Company; when I was coming to Madras, I have taken by the French, they have thrown out ſome bags of rice into the ſea, and gave much trouble to us, and then gave leave to go; whereupon proceeded to Corangee, where I landed the remainder of the cargo, deliver them to the gentlemen of that place, and afterwards have taken the ſaid rice on board; came to Madras, deliver them to the Garriſon Storekeeper; excluſive of the uſual waſtage, having found 2,408 maunds and 11½ P^d was deficiency. Thus I do give this declaration on my conſcience.

(Signed) CAUNA CONDIA. his ✕ mark.

Fort St. George,
Sworn before me, this
28th of April, 1784.

(Signed) Alex^r Davidſon.

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, the 5th July 1784.

Read the following letter from Mr. H. Harris.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge your letter of the 3d inſtant, incloſing copies of the letter and report on the ſalt proviſions from Fort St. George.

I have no doubt but that Mr. Touchet reported the return of the Omiedpore Grab, with the proviſions, when he did that of the other veſſels, to the Agent of Supplies; and though I am not acquainted with the circumſtances fully, to give the Honourable Board the explanation required, yet I know, when the balance of ſalt proviſions was taken away from Omiedpore, this quantity was left, as having been allotted to go to Fort St. George, bills of lading for which had been delivered into the Accomptant General's Office, and I underſtand that Preſidency debited for the amount.

The

The charge of the proviſions was left to us from the time it was firſt made; and we erected large ſheds for it at Magapore, near the river ſide, for the conveniency of ſhipping it, by deſire of the Agent of Supplies, and every poſſible care was taken of it, and it was ſupplied with freſh pickle and hoops from time to time. It is a well known fact, that all ſalted proviſions ſhrink, and particularly what is cured in hot climates; and young beef more than old.

I ſhould have been happy had the proviſions been received here; an extraordinary expence has been incurred in keeping the veſſels for the tranſportation of it, and the opportunity loſt of diſpoſing of it to advantage, ſo that I am a conſiderable ſufferer in doing what I find the Honourable Board diſapprove, from a belief that it was an obligation I was bound to perform.

The proviſions are ſtill on board the veſſel, and I beg to be honoured with the Board's order regarding them.

I am, Sir, &c.

H. HARRIS.

Ordered, That the ſalt proviſions brought back in the Snow Sally be directed to be thrown into the river, being decayed and unſerviceable.

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, the 15th July 1784

The Secretary informs the Board, that after peruſal of Mr. Harris's reply to the queſtion put to him by their orders on the 3d June, recorded in the above conſultation, he was proceeding to read Mr. Auriol's report, made in conformity to the orders of the ſame day, when the Council broke up; he therefore begs to record it in this place.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

In obedience to your commands on the 3d inſtant, I have referred to the correſpondence of the late Agent for Supplies, but find no report was ever made to him of the arrival of conſignments from him to the Preſident and Council at Fort St. George; indeed theſe diſpatches were ever ſent by him (and regularly) in his official capacity of Secretary; and I truſt that you will entirely acquit him of neglect on this ſcore. On peruſal of two letters entered in the Office Order Book, on the 4th December 1782, and 7th January 1783, from which it is evident that duplicates of all invoices and bills of lading were duly ſent, and on one occaſion, Auguſt 17th, 1781, (if not a ſecond time) an aggregate liſt of all diſpatches was ſent; but the intention of having it checked by arrivals and deliveries not being attended to, is the reaſon I believe it was not repeated: I do not find that any report was ever received from Fort St. George, ſince 81, excepting the general mention made in their letter of the 28th December 1782, and reports of deficiencies, which were ever adjuſted by the Agent, in the beſt manner he was able, and the reſult reported to the Board; of this nature is the letter bearing date the 10th May, for which I am now called upon; and I muſt beg leave to offer it as my opinion, that a handſome reward was more due to the Syrangs, for their honeſty (particularly thoſe who were boarded by the enemy) than any claim valid upon them; for, excluſive of their loſs of all the enſuing ſeaſon in occupying it to fulfill their engagement, it is not clear to me but they gave up their own property, that is, as many as were boarded by the enemy, become ſo by a free gift of their captors, which the law of every nation would confirm to them; and I conceive that the advantage taken of their ignorance, is little leſs than an act of injuſtice. If my reaſoning (of which I ſhall here ſtate the grounds) is admitted, it follows, that no claim for deficiency can be made with any colour of right; one or more of theſe Syrangs, who were diſpatched in 82-3 had been before freighted on account the Company, in 81, and were then boarded by the French privateers, who appeared in the roads; their cargoes and veſſels were given up to them, and the ſeaſon was not ſo far advanced, but they reached Madras, and delivered their cargoes as conſigned, for which they received no reward; underſtanding from theſe, that the uſe of the Company's name

TRANSLATION of a Declaration of Chinnaraunadoo, Syrang of a Sloop called Streeraumole.

In the year 1782, month of December, have taken the rice for freight on board the ſaid veſſel from Bengal, to the Honourable Company; and while I was coming to Madras, I was taken by the French, and they have thrown out ſome bags of rice into the ſea, and gave much trouble to us, and then let us go away, whereupon arrived to Corange, where I landed the rice, and deliver them to the gentlemen of that place, and load the ſaid rice back; arrived to Madras, and deliver all the rice that was in that veſſel to the Garriſon Storekeeper; excluſive of the uſual waſtage, found 615 M^{ds} and 12 pounds of rice was deficiency. Thus I do give this declaration on my conſcience.

(Signed) CHINNARAUNADOO his ✕ mark.

Fort St. George,
28th April 1784,
Sworn before me, this day.

(Signed) Alex^{r} Davidſon,
Juſtice.

TRANSLATION of a declaration of Canna Condein, the Syrang of a ſloop called Jagennanyacorlee.

In the year 1782, month of December, have got the rice on board the ſaid ſloop, for freight from Bengal to the Honourable Company; when I was coming to Madras, I have taken by the French, they have thrown out ſome bags of rice into the ſea, and gave much trouble to us, and then gave leave to go; whereupon proceeded to Corangee, where I landed the remainder of the cargo, deliver them to the gentlemen of that place, and afterwards have taken the ſaid rice on board; came to Madras, deliver them to the Garriſon Storekeeper; excluſive of the uſual waſtage, having found 2,408 maunds and 11½ P^{d} was deficiency. Thus I do give this declaration on my conſcience.

(Signed) CAUNA CONDIA. his ✕ mark.

Fort St. George,
Sworn before me, this
28th of April, 1784.

(Signed) Alex^{r} Davidſon.

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, the 5th July 1784.

Read the following letter from Mr. H. Harris.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge your letter of the 3d inſtant, incloſing copies of the letter and report on the ſalt proviſions from Fort St. George.

I have no doubt but that Mr. Touchet reported the return of the Omiedpore Grab, with the proviſions, when he did that of the other veſſels, to the Agent of Supplies; and though I am not acquainted with the circumſtances fully, to give the Honourable Board the explanation required, yet I know, when the balance of ſalt proviſions was taken away from Omiedpore, this quantity was left, as having been allotted to go to Fort St. George, bills of lading for which had been delivered into the Accomptant General's Office, and I underſtand that Preſidency debited for the amount.

The

The charge of the proviſions was left to us from the time it was firſt made; and we erected large ſheds for it at Magapore, near the river ſide, for the conveniency of ſhipping it, by deſire of the Agent of Supplies, and every poſſible care was taken of it, and it was ſupplied with freſh pickle and hoops from time to time. It is a well known fact, that all ſalted proviſions ſhrink, and particularly what is cured in hot climates; and young beef more than old.

I ſhould have been happy had the proviſions been received here; an extraordinary expence has been incurred in keeping the veſſels for the tranſportation of it, and the opportunity loſt of diſpoſing of it to advantage, ſo that I am a conſiderable ſufferer in doing what I find the Honourable Board diſapprove, from a belief that it was an obligation I was bound to perform.

The proviſions are ſtill on board the veſſel, and I beg to be honoured with the Board's order regarding them.

I am, Sir, &c.

H. HARRIS.

Ordered, That the ſalt proviſions brought back in the Snow Sally be directed to be thrown into the river, being decayed and unſerviceable.

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, the 15th July 1784

The Secretary informs the Board, that after peruſal of Mr. Harris's reply to the queſtion put to him by their orders on the 3d June, recorded in the above conſultation, he was proceeding to read Mr. Auriol's report, made in conformity to the orders of the ſame day, when the Council broke up; he therefore begs to record it in this place.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

In obedience to your commands on the 3d inſtant, I have referred to the correſpondence of the late Agent for Supplies, but find no report was ever made to him of the arrival of conſignments from him to the Preſident and Council at Fort St. George; indeed theſe diſpatches were ever ſent by him (and regularly) in his official capacity of Secretary; and I truſt that you will entirely acquit him of neglect on this ſcore. On peruſal of two letters entered in the Office Order Book, on the 4th December 1782, and 7th January 1783, from which it is evident that duplicates of all invoices and bills of lading were duly ſent, and on one occaſion, Auguſt 17th, 1781, (if not a ſecond time) an aggregate liſt of all diſpatches was ſent; but the intention of having it checked by arrivals and deliveries not being attended to, is the reaſon I believe it was not repeated: I do not find that any report was ever received from Fort St. George, ſince 81, excepting the general mention made in their letter of the 28th December 1782, and reports of deficiencies, which were ever adjuſted by the Agent, in the beſt manner he was able, and the reſult reported to the Board; of this nature is the letter bearing date the 10th May, for which I am now called upon; and I muſt beg leave to offer it as my opinion, that a handſome reward was more due to the Syrangs, for their honeſty (particularly thoſe who were boarded by the enemy) than any claim valid upon them; for, excluſive of their loſs of all the enſuing ſeaſon in occupying it to fulfill their engagement, it is not clear to me but they gave up their own property, that is, as many as were boarded by the enemy, become ſo by a free gift of their captors, which the law of every nation would confirm to them; and I conceive that the advantage taken of their ignorance, is little leſs than an act of injuſtice. If my reaſoning (of which I ſhall here ſtate the grounds) is admitted, it follows, that no claim for deficiency can be made with any colour of right; one or more of theſe Syrangs, who were diſpatched in 82-3 had been before freighted on account the Company, in 81, and were then boarded by the French privateers, who appeared in the roads; their cargoes and veſſels were given up to them, and the ſeaſon was not ſo far advanced, but they reached Madras, and delivered their cargoes as conſigned, for which they received no reward; underſtanding from theſe, that the uſe of the Company's name

had like to have been fatal to them, and that their veſſels and cargoes were given up to them as *poor people*, caution was obſerved the enſuing ſeaſon, and the Syrangs directed to conceal their diſpatches, and the marked bags, under ſtarted rice, and proclaim themſelves, on ſuch an event, to be adventurers on their *own* riſk, I have therefore reaſon to attribute the eſcape of the Syrangs in queſtion to theſe inſtructions, and that it was from motives of commiſſeration for them that the captors ſhewed them ſuch clemency; and I apprehend that others who were not ſo fortunate, as appears from the following copy of a note from Mr. Fergusſon, did not attend to the orders given them; viz.

" The Succeſs, that was ranſomed, has brought 37 people, which were part of the crews of " five of the veſſels you had of me, that have been taken going out into twenty fathoms water, " by the boats of the Hanibal, and ſunk with all their cargoes in, but none of the crews are " loſt."

This being a circumſtance of mere information, concerning which no ſteps could be taken, I preſume my brother judged it ſufficient to communicate it to the Board, or to the Governor General, verbally, as he has occaſionally done, with other matters that he did not conceive it could anſwer any purpoſe to enter upon record. How many more were deſtroyed by the enemy has never been aſcertained, any more than the number that have reached their deſtination, as I find no further letter on the ſubject than the one above mentioned, recorded 20th January 1783. I beg permiſſion, in this place, to remark, that there has been a doubt ſuggeſted about the mode of crediting the conſignments of this Preſidency at Fort St. George, from their ſtating deficient deliveries, and only crediting the quantities received: If that is the caſe, I humbly conceive they ſhould credit them at the market price, and not at the invoice price, which, at that rate, muſt ever make the remittances appear againſt this government, as the allowed deficiency (barring caſualties) is 5 per cent.; but I am convinced, that on a juſt and fair calculation, from beginning to end, of the Agent's conſignments, crediting the actual quantities received at the price they would have ſold it in the market on the days they were ſtored in garriſon, and debiting the whole amount of all the invoices, or rather all the Agent's diſburſements recorded in your Accountant's office, on account of that Preſidency, that the remittances would be found to have been greatly in favour of this mode, compared with ſpecie or bills; and this might be done without much trouble, as price currents of every ſeaſon are recorded at Fort St. George, but I crave the pardon of your Honourable Board for this digreſſion, which the concern I had in the buſineſs of the Agency has led me into.

Conformable to your orders, gentlemen, of the ſame date, I have alſo made ſuch references, concerning the ſalt proviſions which the Governor and Council at Fort St. George have thought proper to return to this Preſidency upon the Sally, as enable me to make the following report:

On the 2d January 1782, the Agent was directed to receive ſuch tierces of ſalt proviſions, prepared by Mr. Touchet, on account of his contract, as might be approved by the Company's cooper: They were examined, and Mr. Touchet permitted to ſend them to Madras, on his application, at the current rate of freight. Being diſappointed by the early ſetting in of the Monſoon, in Conſultation 15th April following there is a letter from him on the ſubject, which I lay before you, with the Secretary's reply, and his letter of the 4th July, communicating the Board's orders of that day to Mr. Touchet, and to the Company's cooper, whoſe report is recorded in Conſultation 22d July; after which many caſks were ſent, and nothing particularly occurs till the 31ſt May 83, when your late Agent concludes a letter to the Honourable Board with the following poſtcript: " Since writing the above, I have heard of the return of the " Omeedpoor grab, which had 320 tierces of ſalt proviſions on board." On this (recorded the 2d June) appears no order; but a private letter from Mr. Harris, dated 19th June, promiſes a future conveyance; he has related the ſequel, which I believe to be the true ſtate of the caſe: he conſidered himſelf bound in honour to carry the proviſions, which, had they been countermanded, the freight would have been forfeited, and a further expence incurred in landing them. They had, not long ſince, undergone an examination, and, in the month of September, Captain Jameſon found them good enough to take about 60 caſks, for the uſe of his ſhip's company, and the priſoners he conveyed to Madras; and the Captain of the Ann and Amelia took 200 caſks for the ſame purpoſe: both of theſe gentlemen had them again examined on the 18th December. My report of the balance ſtill in ſtore was read, and my verbal propoſal (upon the conſideration of what ſhould be done with them, " to let a perſon whom I could recommend have half of whatever he could ſell them for, as they would not fetch any thing at outcry") was aſſented to: he has ſold three caſks, one for 30, and two for 25 rupees each; the reſt, excepting a few at the Cooley Bazar, are in cuſtody of Mr. Tiretta, who cleared them

them out of the Court Houſe (where they were carried to be ſold) by order of the Honourable the Governor General, whoſe order alone, I underſtand, he will obey in delivering them up.

I have the honour to be, with the greateſt reſpect, &c,

(Signed) J. L. AURIOL,

Council Houſe,
the 12th June, 1784.

Attorney to J. P. Auriol, late Agent for Supplies to the other Preſidencies.

To Charles Freeman, Eſquire, Secretary at Fort St. George.

Sir,

Incloſed you will receive ſundry duplicate invoices and bills of lading, of treaſure, gunpowder, and victualling ſtores, which have been diſpatched to the Preſidency of Fort St. George ſince the 13th September laſt, the duplicate bills of lading of ſuch invoices as have none in them have already been ſent.

I am, Sir,

Your moſt obedient

Humble ſervant,

Fort William,
the 4th December, 1782.

(Signed) J. P. AURIOL, Secy.
(A true copy) J. L. AURIOL, Sub Secy.

To Charles Freeman, Eſquire, Secretary at Fort St. George.

Sir,

Incloſed you will receive ſundry duplicate invoices and bills of lading, of rice, ſalt proviſions, &c. which have been diſpatched to the Preſidency of Fort St. George, ſince 2d December laſt.

I am, Sir,

Your moſt obedient,

Humble ſervant,

Fort William,
7th January, 1783.

(Signed) J. P. AURIOL, Secy,
(A true copy) J. L. AURIOL, Sub Secy.

Ordered, That a copy of the above letter and incloſure be tranſmitted to Fort St. George.

COPY

COPY of Proceedings of the Governor General and Council in the Year 1780, relative to continuing the Opium Contract to Mr. Mackenzie for One Year, after the Expiration of his Contract, in September 1780.

EXTRACT of Bengal Revenue Conſultations, the 11th April 1780.

PRESENT;

Meſſrs. Haſtings,
Francis, and
Wheler.

READ the following letter from the Opium Contractor.

To the Honourable Warren Haſtings, Governor General, &c. Council of Revenue, Fort William.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

The ſeaſon for making advances to the cultivators of opium land being arrived, I am under the neceſſity of calling upon your attention, and of expreſſing my hopes that the experience you have had of the punctuality with which I have hitherto fulfilled my engagements with your Honourable Board will induce you to prolong my contract to a further term.

Should you be pleaſed to continue the management of this buſineſs in my hands, I beg leave to aſſure you that I will make it my principal ſtudy to give you ſatisfaction.

I am, &c.

Calcutta,
11th April 1780. (Signed) JOHN MACKENZIE.

Agreed, That the contract of Mr. Mackenzie, for the proviſion of the opium of Bengal and Bahar, be prolonged for one year on the preſent terms; and that the Provincial Councils of Patna and Dinagepore, and the Collector of Boglepore, be adviſed thereof, as follows.

To Mr. William Maxwell, Chief, &c. Provincial Council, Patna.

Gentlemen,

This ſerves to adviſe you that we have thought proper to prolong the contract, held by Mr. Mackenzie, for the proviſion of the opium produced in the province of Bahar, which expires on the 1ſt of next September, for another year from that time, on the ſame terms as the preſent.

Fort William,
the 11th April 1780. We are, &c.

The ſame to Dinagepore and Boglepore, inſerting the word Bengal inſtead of Bahar.

Ordered, That a clauſe be annexed to the Contract for Opium accordingly.

EXTRACT

EXTRACT of Bengal Revenue Conſultations, the 16th May 1780.

The Contract of Mr. Mackenzie for the proviſion of the Opium of Bengal and Bahar, with the clauſe ordered to be annexed to it, on the 11th ultimo, is now laid before the Board, and executed.

Agreed, That the penalty of the above contract be fixed at one third of the preſent amount, being current rupees 1,54,265. 5. 4.

COPY of the Proceedings held in Bengal relative to Mr. GEORGE BRIGHT, in the Year 1780; with the Orders of the Court of Directors thereupon.

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, the 10th Auguſt 1780.

GOVERNOR GENERAL lays before the Board the following moſt extraordinary letter, which he has received from Mr. Bright, one of the Members of the Provincial Council of Patna. The whole tenor of it ſtrongly indicates ſo univerſal a want of principle in the writer of it, that it is not eaſy to reduce it to any ſpecific charge againſt him.—To have written ſuch a letter; to avow the ſentiments which it contains; to ſolicit from the firſt Member of the Government his licence and aſſiſtance to riot in the plunder of whole Provinces, and his participation in the booty, are crimes in themſelves of the blackeſt infamy.

Their evidence reſts on the ſingle authenticity of the letter; of which the proofs may be examined, if the charge is denied.

The Court of Directors have, in their inſtructions of the 1774, preſcribed the rules of proceſs for the trial of ſuch of their covenanted ſervants as ſhall be arraigned for offences meriting either ſuſpenſion from office, or from the ſervice.—Conformably to theſe, the Governor General now moves, that a charge be formally preferred againſt Mr. Bright, for having written the letter to the Governor General which is now preſented to the Board; that this charge, with a copy of the letter, be tranſmitted in a letter to the Chief and Council of Patna, with orders that it be by them delivered to Mr. Bright; and that he be required to reply to it on before the 24th of this month.

The Governor General delivers in with the above mentioned letter the cover in which it was encloſed, and deſires that the Secretary will keep it in his poſſeſſion, that it may be forthcoming if required.

Sir,

I take the liberty of making this private addreſs on ſubjects of importance to us both. The Governor General has given Rajah Kelleram permiſſion to go to Calcutta; and I underſtand it to be in conſequence of his application.

The Honourable Board were informed that we had entruſted the management of Sircar Rotas to him; and, doubtleſs, you were acquainted with this circumſtance. It is ſurpriſing that he ſhould be withdrawn from the juriſdiction of the Patna Board, without enquiry being firſt made of them, to know what prejudice his departure would be to the collections; unleſs the order given to him in the letter the Governor General honoured him with, to take leave of Mr. Young, is to be received in that light, I muſt ſuppoſe this to have been the Governor General's deſign; or, if my opinion ſhould ever be required of the tranſaction, I ſhould be at a loſs what to ſay.

Mr. Young, on ſuppoſition that the Governor General was unacquainted with the miſconduct of Kelleram, the conſiderable balance due from him to government, and the preſent enquiry into his actions, and adjuſtment of his Waſſilaut, would not ſuffer him to go, and on his refuſing to obey his order, put him under a guard; becauſe we would not permit him to pillage the diſtrict he had charge of, and becauſe we redreſſed the Zemindars of Chienpore, who complained of his oppreſſion, he is become a bitter enemy to the Council, and has entered into a cabal with our Dewan, and Meſſrs. Keating, Booth, and others, to procure the diſſolution of the Council, the Province of Sarum, &c. to be farmed to the Duan at an increaſe of 400,000 rupees, who has given him a blank to fill up with propoſals in Calcutta, and has authoriſed him to make a Douceur of 100,000 rupees; a reſident of their own nomination to be appointed, to be ſubſervient to their ends. He has been very induſtrious to procure articles of accuſation againſt us, and has applied to all the renters and Zemindars, to encourage them to ſupply him with informations. You will, doubtleſs, ſoon hear of the proceedings of Meſſrs. Bird, Keating, and Ramus and Booth, in conſequence of Mr. Young's detenſion of Kelleram. As to the ſecond of theſe gentlemen, he has been particularly active in this matter, has taken upon him authority contrary to every rule of the ſervice, and has acted ſuch a diſhonourable part, in being the promoter and author of all complaints and troubles, with a view of obtaining ſeparate advantages for himſelf, though he openly concurred in our meaſures, and ſhared in the advantages reſulting from them, that I am reſolved either he or I ſhall be removed from hence. He has prevailed on Mr. Bird to join him. As to Mr. Ramus, I know nothing of him. As they are as deep in the mud as we are in the mire, to uſe a vulgar expreſſion, you may well wonder why they ſhould venture to act thus. The caſe is, that they have been led to believe that Mr. Young and I are the devoted objects of the Governor General's reſentment, without reflecting that no one can caſt a ſtone at us, without injury to himſelf, to them, and to the whole ſervice: But, beſides this, they have been promiſed indemnification by Kelleram, though they ſhould know that it is not in his power to indemnify them; for that muſt depend entirely on the pleaſure of me and my friend Young. I before mentioned, that I underſtood the permiſſion to Kelleram to depart was in conſequence of his application; that muſt have been the caſe, for a report prevailed, of Kelleram's circulating, that he had written for leave, and that the Governor General would ſend for him, to obtain information againſt us.—How elſe could he know the Governor General's intentions?—That the Governor General ſhould encourage informers, is very ſtrange; for it is not poſſible for him to know to what lengths informers may proceed, and to whom they may go.—The firſt that are injured may, in my opinion, without meriting the diſgraceful appellation of informers, uſe the ſame inſtrument by which they have been hurt, to effect their revenge. This is a diſagreeable ſubject: I ſhall therefore only add, that if I am drowned it will be in a general deluge.

The Imahdars, and others who are at Calcutta, have no juſt reaſon of complaint, nor would any complaint have been made by them, had they not been inſtigated to it by Mr. Keating, from views of ſeparate advantage. The oppoſition of the Honourable Board to this Council relative to the opium contract, and the little notice, nay, the encouragement that was given to Mr. Booth to be inſolent to the Council, and oppreſſive to the natives, has been the chief cauſes of the ſchemes againſt us; and if any injury is done us, it will proceed from the ſame motive.—As to the Company's intereſt, I can make a juſt gloſſary on thoſe words and prove the truth of it.

All that I have written is only meant as an introduction to what I am going to write.—I have taken the liberty, Sir, to tell you the conſequence of any public or private injury to me; a liberty, which perhaps you will think me to blame for taking; but the only apology I ſhall ever make is, that when a ſtag is hard puſhed, though naturally a timorous animal, he will turn and defend himſelf; you have great intereſt, and it is in your power to blaſt the deſigns of my enemies—I ſhall take the liberty to propoſe proper methods of doing it.

Let

Let informers be diſcouraged, and thoſe perſons who have complained be ſent back to this place for redreſs, which they will meet with; let Mr. Keating be removed from hence, and Mr. Booth, if not removed, made ſubordinate to our Board, which ſhould alſo, for the benefit of the people of this province, and to prevent flagrant acts of injuſtice, have the power to try appeals frow all decrees of the Adaulut on ſuits inſtituted for above 500 current rupees, and not as in the new regulations; his decrees to be final, if not exceeding 1,000 ſicca rupees, which may, in fact, be againſt the plaintiff for fifty millions, and is illegal according to the laws of Great Britain. But I ſuppoſe it was meant that his decrees ſhould only be final where cauſe of action ſhould not exceed 1,000 rupees; I wiſh this was the only impropriety and illegal thing in the Regulations.—This ſubordination will in future prevent claſhing juriſdiction and intereſts, and will give to this Board that undivided power which can alone enable it to manage the Revenue, and properly diſcharge its duty.

The ſecond mode I propoſe is, to remove me from this Council, but not to my prejudice.—Let me be appointed Collector of Rohilcund; you muſt well know, Sir, that it would be worth my acceptance; or elſe to Goruckpore; M——r H——y has had a good time of it, and you muſt be well acquainted with what has paſſed in and relative to that country; or, if that is not agreeable, I ſhall be well contented with ſome other part of Oude, as a Collectorſhip, ſomething in the nature of Mr. Shee's, for which I may plead equal abilities, having, perhaps, at leaſt as much knowledge of Revenue buſineſs as that Gentleman, and I am certain a much greater knowledge of the preſent and former ſtates of thoſe countries, having been at ſome trouble and expence to require it; but Rohilcund is what I ſhould prefer, for though that country is as much deſolated as Oude, yet I know that it is ſtill a fine field for ſport, and I am exceeding fond of hunting.—I hear that the game is very good and plenty there, and can run exceeding well, and that there are ſome kinds very uncommon in Bengal.—I know, Sir, that you have great knowledge in natural hiſtory, and are very curious in collecting ſuch curioſities as are worthy the notice of a Connoiſſeur.—Now this appointment will give me an opportunity equal to the earneſt deſire I have of gratifying your deſires; and that you may not think I jeſt, I aſſure you, that almoſt my whole time there will be employed in following the game, and will undertake, nay, I will give every ſecurity in my power to ſupply you from time to time with the choiceſt and moſt valuable part of the game I may catch; but, as I really believe one of the moſt diſagreeable things that can happen to a connoiſſeur and natural philoſopher, is to be plagued with viſitors, who are apt, without due conſideration of conſequences, and in a rude manner, to handle and ſpoil his choiceſt curioſities, it may be neceſſary, in order to prevent the viſits of ſuch rude intruders, to uſe ſome precautions for keeping them in ignorance; you, Sir, muſt be the beſt judge what precautions will be neceſſary, and what you judge I ſhall neceſſarily, implicitly, and faithfully adopt.—I may be of uſe to you in another matter of full as much importance in the eyes of a natural philoſoper: I know the preſent ſtate of parties, and what is concerted and likely to happen on the return of a certain perſon to Calcutta.—I know the motives that will urge, and, I believe, I know the means, if not to prevent at leaſt to ſtill the waves of contention,—My ſituation in that country will greatly contribute to put it in your power to effect this—I am no ſtranger to late tranſactions in Oude, &c.

Fize Ullah Khan has a part of Rohilcund, and the revenue of this part is eſtimated at 30 lacks, for which he is ſuppoſed to maintain 5,000 cavalry, and another part of it is aſſigned to the King for the maintenance of ſome battalions at Delhi.—The revenue of this part I do not know, but that of all Rohilcund is ſuppoſed to be 80 lacks, but, except the Khaun's diſtrict (which is very flouriſhing) is in a truly deplorable ſituation, and conſequently the above eſtimated jumma is never realized. The quarterly mofuſſal bundabuſts; the frequent change of renters, effected by bribery; their oppreſſions; and a thouſand other reaſons, unneceſſary to detail at preſent, have not only cauſed an immenſe decreaſe of the revenue in this part of Rohilcund, but throughout Aſoph ul Dowlah's territories. This part of Rohilcund was laſt year, as I am informed, farmed at about 42 lacks, but only about 36 lacks were realized, and that could only be done by a ſeries of violence and cruelty.—Inſtead of 5,000 horſe that the above Khan ſhould keep, for the ſecurity of the frontiers againſt the Seiks and Goodjies, he has barely 2,000; and if it was not for our military force at Daranaghur, his dominions could not eſcape the ravages of thoſe people the very firſt dry ſeaſon that he ſhould be left to himſelf.—If, inſtead of the 5,000 horſe only 1,000, or, at moſt 1,500, were kept, with three battalions of ſepoys, and two companies of ſepoys, and ſix field pieces, all commanded by European officers, not only the Khan's diſtrict, but all Rohilcund, would be well ſecured, the expence would be the ſame; there would be another moſt excellent chief military command, and many valuable ſubordinate ones, which would be to the credit of government.—It might alſo be a ſaving of about ſeven lacks yearly, as the battalions now at Barrelly, and the three battalions

and

and one company of artillery at Daranaghur, would be uſeleſs. As to the revenue of Rohilcund, I would engage (without prejudice to private engagements) to improve it to a very great degree, by putting a ſtop to the preſent very iniquitous oppreſſions and abuſes; and I am convinced, that when the natives have taſted the ſweets and ſecurity of ſteady and lenient Government, as many people as are now in it would be attracted from other parts, and particularly from Neſoph Khan's country, which is to ſo great a degree harraſſed with perpetual wars and depredations, that the ryots cannot cultivate their lands, and Neſoph Khan's country is as remarkable for the badneſs, as Rohilcund is for the goodneſs of its ſoil.

As I have not at preſent any views towards the country commanded and rented by M——r H——y, I ſhall only ſay, that what has paſſed is the aſtoniſhment of every one.

If what I have propoſed ſhould pleaſe, and it ſhould be neceſſary to ſpeak with me, permiſſion will eaſily be obtained for me to proceed to Calcutta, on ſuppoſition that I have applied for it, and I ſhall immediately depart.—I only mean if it ſhould be deemed abſolutely neceſſary.—No one has yet ſeen or heard the contents of this letter; and intereſt and gratitude will bind me to act honourably.

I have the honour, &c.

Patna,
30th July 1780.

(Signed) G. BRIGHT.

Agreed to the Governor General's Motion. The following letter is accordingly written to the Chief and Council at Patna.

Gentlemen,

The Governor General has laid before us a letter which he has received, bearing the ſignature of a Member of your Council, and of ſo very extraordinary a nature and tendency, that it is not eaſy to convey to you our ſenſe of it; but we think it abſolutely neceſſary to tranſmit to you the encloſed copy of it, properly authenticated; and to command you, as we hereby do, to ſhew the ſame to Mr. George Bright; to prefer a formal charge in our name, and in writing, againſt him, as the author of it; and require his reply to this charge on or before the 24th of this month, which, when you have received it, you will be pleaſed to forward to us immediately.

Fort William,
10th Auguſt, 1780.

We are &c.

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, the 4th September 1780.

Received the following letter and its accompanyments from the Chief and Provincial Council at Patna.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

We have been honoured with your letter of the 10th inſtant; and in obedience to your commands, we preferred a formal charge againſt Mr. George Bright in your name, in writing, as the author of the letter, a copy of which accompanies yours. That Gentleman having delivered in his reply, we now beg leave to encloſe a copy thereof to you, with an extract of our proceedings on this ſubject at our laſt meeting.

Patna,
24th Auguſt 1780.

We are, with reſpect, &c.

(Signed) Wm. YOUNG, &c. Council.

EXTRACT

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Revenue Council at Patna, dated the 21ſt Auguſt 1780.

Meſſrs. Maxwell and Bird abſent.

Read the following letter from the Honourable Governor General and Council, with its incloſure, dated 10th Auguſt.

Mr. Bright requeſts the acting Chief will inform him at what time he received the above letter?

The Chief replies—Yeſterday morning about 11 o'clock, and that they came in ſeparate covers, with the Houghly poſt mark on them.

As, from the mention made of my name in the copy of the letter from Mr. Bright, and the well known intimate friendſhip which has ſubſiſted between us for many years, the world may be naturally led to believe that it was written by my conſent, or at leaſt that I was conſulted upon it, I requeſt that Mr. Bright will declare upon his honour, whether I was ever conſulted upon it, or in any degree whatever privy to it, or at all acquainted with the contents of it, till the receipt of the Honourable Governor General and Council's letter now before us.

(Signed) W. YOUNG.

I declare upon my honour that Mr. Young, to the beſt of my knowledge, was entirely unacquainted witth the letter, till the copy of it was received from the Honourable Board; and that I never in any reſpect conſulted him or any other perſon concerning it; it was meant by me as a private letter to a private gentleman, and I did not think any one would have acted ſo contrary to the rules of ſociety, as to make it public.

(Signed) G. BRIGHT.

The copy of the letter ſigned George Bright, is accordingly ſhewn to that gentleman.

Agreed, That, in obedience to the orders of the Honourable the Governor General and Council, we write to Mr. Bright as follows:

To Mr. George Bright.

Sir,

Encloſed you will receive copy of a letter addreſſed to this Board by the Honourable the Governor General and Council, in which you are accuſed of being the author of the letter laid before them by the Governor General, an atteſted copy of which has been this day exhibited to you.—In obedience to their commands, we do accordingly charge you with being the author of the ſaid letter, and require your reply to this charge on or before the 24th of this month, that the ſame may be tranſmitted to them without delay.

We are, &c.

Chief and Council.

A true Extract.

(Signed) M. Leſlie,
Secretary.

Gentlemen,

The day before yeſterday, at ſeven o'clock in the evening, I was favoured with your letter.

The letter I wrote to Mr. Haſtings was of a private nature, and never intended for the inſpection of the Honourable Board, I am therefore at a loſs to account for that Gentleman's troubling them with it. But I am accuſed of having written a certain letter to the Governor General, which the Honourable Board are pleaſed to inform you is of ſuch an extraordinary nature and tendency, that it is not eaſy for them to convey to you their ſenſe of it; this I am not in the leaſt ſurprized at, for to the Honourable Governor General and Council it may perhaps be unintelligible, as it was not intended for their peruſal; and I therefore do not heſitate to deny the charge of having written that letter to the Governor General, and I am certain that no part of the letter or addreſs can indicate its being deſigned for him.

Thus, gentlemen, I have given you the moſt categorical anſwer in my power to the charge preferred againſt me, which I apprehend will ſerve to clear me of it. However, I think it my duty, and I flatter myſelf it can give no juſt cauſe of offence to the Governor General, or to the Governor General and Council, if I proteſt againſt the Governor General's acting as a Judge, or being preſent when this letter may be taken into conſideration, as, having been my accuſer, he has made himſelf an intereſted party, and nothing can warrant his being a judge in his own cauſe.

I have the honour, &c.

Patna,
24th Auguſt, 1780

(Signed) G. BRIGHT.

A true Copy.

(Signed) M. Leſlie, Secretary.

The Governor General lays before the Board the following letter and encloſure from Mr. George Bright.

Sir,

You have thought proper to publiſh a confidential letter; the world will decide on the propriety of ſuch an act. From the high ſenſe I entertained of the unjuſtifiableneſs of it, I was at firſt induced to make what is contained in the accompanying paper a part of my reply to the charge laid againſt me by the Governor General; but as I wiſh not to proceed to extremities, unleſs driven to it, I now encloſe it for your peruſal. I have only to add, that my reply to the charge is very moderate, which puts it in your power to act with moderation on your part; and that if any reſolution is taken fatal to my proſpects in this country, I ſhall be in the predicament of Milton's Devil,

" So farewell hope; and with hope farewell fear:
" Farewell remorſe, all good to me is loſt;
" Evil be thou my good."

In plain proſe, I will not ſubmit to be injured in any ſhape whatever.

I am, &c.

Patna,
24th Auguſt 1780. (Signed) G. BRIGHT.

The Honourable Board's letter was read at our Board the 21ſt inſtant; it arrived only the preceding day. The very ſhort ſpace of time (an interval of only two days) allowed me, prevents my giving ſuch a particular reply to the charge as the nature of it demands, it is abſolutely neceſſary that I ſhould, in my defence, treat largely on the following articles.

1. The

1. The appointment of Rajah Goodaſs, ſon of Rajah Nundcannar, who was afterwards hanged, to the office of Duan to the Nabob's houſhold; the oppoſition that was made to it, and the means of which it was effected, one of the firſt acts of Mr. H——'s government.

2. Cantoo Baboo's farms and contracts.

3. The general pillage made by the C——l of C—t in the time of Mr. H——, and of his planning.

4. The two hundred thouſand of M———h R——h K—— S———g, and the fifty thouſand of M——r A—f— deceaſed.

5. The tranſactions at Benares, and in Oude, when Mr. H—— was there.

6. The extraordinary diſſipation of the Company's treaſure.

7. The eſtabliſhment of the marine, and the exorbitant expences attending it.

8. The exorbitant purchaſe of the Cartel ſhip, for the benefit of certain perſons indebted to Mr. H.

9. The Mahratta expedition.

10. The appointment of a certain gentleman, not a ſervant of the Company, to a new, conſiderable, and lucrative military command, who was indebted to the deceaſed Mr. H—k, who was indebted to Mr. H——, eſtabliſhed by Mr. H. and aboliſhed when the reaſons for its eſtabliſhment no longer exiſted.

11. The excellent policy of permitting Mr. Chevalier, late Governor of Chandernagore, a notorious enemy to the Engliſh nation, and well acquainted with every circumſtance of this part of the world, to go to France by the way of Suez, which muſt have put him ſooner in the way of giving intelligence toour enemies, and better enable him to ſecure to himſelf the immenſe ſums hehad obtained from Engliſh gentleman for bills on France. Quere, Were the remittances of Mr. H—— ſecured?

12. The independance of the Danagepore Rajah.

13. The diſſolution of the Calcutta Committee, for the greater ſecurity of private influence, and to gratify the malice of a black man.

14. The tranſactions relative to Mr. H——a.

15. The army, and opium, and other contracts.

16. Granting opium to the Dutch at the contract price, conſequently leſs than the price paid by the Engliſh Company, for certain reaſons.

17. Repeated acts of diſobedience to the orders of the Court of Directors.

18. Diſobedience of the Company's orders reſpecting Mahmud Reza Caun, for the ſake of keeping in that old woman the deceaſed Sudder ul Huch Khaun, fit only to be employed as a tool of deſpotiſm and venality.

19. The general pillage, and preſent ſtate of Oude and Rohilcund.

20. Repeated inſtances of unjuſt ſuperceſſions and removals of the Company's ſervants for the purpoſe of providing for tools of power, relations and dependants, contrary to the Company's moſt poſitive orders.

21. In many inſtances ſacrificing public to private intereſts.

22. The preſent ſtate of the Calcutta Committee, and of the Purnea and Burdwan Councils.

23. The late regulations for the adminiſtration of juſtice at the ſubordinates.

And many other matters of the greateſt importance.

And in order that I may better elucidate theſe matters by a compariſon of the private reaſons which urged to theſe ſeveral tranſactions, with the reaſons publickly held forth to the Court of Directors, it will be abſolutely neceſſary for me to be admitted to the peruſal of all the conſultations and accounts ſince the commencement of Mr. Haſtings's government: I now accordingly requeſt that the Governor General and Council will give the neceſſary orders.

To write fully on the above articles muſt be a work of ſome time: I muſt therefore reſerve to myſelf the privilege of making my defence at large on ſome future occaſion to the Honourable Board, to the Court of Directors, or to ſome Court of Judicature here or in England, as I may hereafter find moſt ſuitable to the opinion of the learned in ſuch matters: In the interim, as the Governor General is my accuſer, conſequently an intereſted party, I proteſt againſt his acting as a judge, or being preſent, or giving any opinion on this matter.

In caſe any further defence ſhould be inſiſted on, I think it neceſſary to inform you of the pleas I ſhall chiefly rely on, which will be the following: I ſhall firſt plead to the juriſdiction of the Governor General and Council, as incompetent in the preſent caſe, having no authority given them by the Act of Parliament for the trial of ſuch offences as that with which I am charged; and could I be found guilty, were they to inflict any puniſhment on me, ſuch as ſuſpenſion or diſmiſſion from the ſervice, or ſimply diſmiſſion from my office, I apprehend it would be good ground for a proſecution for damages.

My next plea will be a poſitive denial of the charge, as the letter was written to Mr. Haſtings as a private gentleman; and if it ſhould be ſaid that his public and private character cannot be ſeparated, I ſhall requeſt that the conſultations in which that upright man, the late General Clavering, publicly called on Mr. Haſtings as Governor General, to produce the correſpondence that had paſſed between him and Mr. Middleton, as of a nature very important to the Company. But if it ſhould be ſaid that Mr. Haſtings has the privilege of putting on the public character of Governor General, and putting it off, like a maſk, as he pleaſes, and as beſt ſuits his deſigns, I ſhall ſay, how happy it is to be a great man! But this will not prevent my thinking that the ſaid Mr. Haſtings, by publiſhing my private letter, has made himſelf in his private character, not only obnoxious to the private reſentment for ſuch treachery, but alſo to a public proſecution.

I ſhall next plead that there was a very great informality if not illegality in the manner of laying the charge againſt me, tending to the ſubverſion of juſtice, and eſtabliſhment of tyranny, for the charge was laid in a Court in which the accuſer's vote was the vote of the majority, for there was only himſelf and another member preſent, and I have not yet been furniſhed with a copy of their proceedings, which a due regard to candour ſhould have made it unneceſſary for me to demand.

Read again Mr. Bright's letter, dated the 30th July, and entered into Conſultation 10th Auguſt, and the reſolution of the Board upon it.

The Governor General deſires to record, That he never had any private intercourſe or acquaintance with Mr. Bright, of any kind whatſoever;—any further comment on the part of the Governor General on ſuch propoſitions as the Board have juſt heard would be unbecoming.

Mr.

Mr. Wheler.—Mr. Bright not having cleared himſelf to the ſatisfaction of the Members of this Board, from the charge of addreſſing a letter to the Governor General of ſuch a nature as I believe was never before exhibited at any public Board, and of ſuch a tendency as to ſubvert all order and ſubordination in the ſervice, and avowing principles which, of all others, may have the moſt dangerous and deſtructive conſequences if ſuffered to paſs unnoticed or unpuniſhed, I think myſelf called upon, as a Member of this Government, to move, and I accordingly do move, That Mr. Bright be forthwith ſuſpended from the ſervice of the Company, until the pleaſure of the Court of Directors ſhall be known.

Sir Eyre Coote.—I think myſelf fully warranted, by the letters and papers which have been read, to give my opinion for the ſuſpenſion of Mr. Bright.—I agree to Mr. Wheler's motion.

The Governor General.—Whether I may be deemed to have or not to have a right of giving my judgement on a queſtion of this nature, I will record my opinion, That Mr. Bright, the author of the letter now before the Board, deſerves the greateſt puniſhment which it is in the power of the Governor General and Council to inflict upon him, which is ſuſpenſion from the ſervice of the Company.—I therefore agree to the motion.

Reſolved, That Mr. George Bright do ſtand ſuſpended from the ſervice of the Company, until the pleaſure of the Honourable Court of Directors ſhall be known.

Agreed, That this reſolution be notified to him through the Chief and Council of Patna with the following letter.

Gentlemen,

We have received your letter of the 24th ultimo, conveying Mr. Bright's reply to the charge preferred againſt him by our orders of the 10th inſtant of the ſame month.

Being agreed in our opinions that Mr. Bright has not exculpated himſelf from the charge brought againſt him, of writing that letter to the Governor General, of which a copy was ſent to you; and thinking it incumbent on us not to permit the avowal of principles ſo dangerous, and of a conduct ſo diſreſpectful to the firſt Member of this Government in any of the ſervants of the Company, to be known and not puniſhed as they merit, we have determined to ſuſpend him from the ſervice of the Company until the pleaſure of the Honourable Court of Directors ſhall be known; and we hereby direct, that on receipt of this letter you make known this our reſolution to Mr. George Bright, and henceforth deny him admittance to your Councils.

Fort William,
4th September 1780.

We are, &c.

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, the 25th September 1780.

Read the following letter from Mr. Bright.

Gentlemen,

I have read your letter to the Chief and Council of Patna, dated the 4th inſtant, in which you are pleaſed to declare, that you agree in opinion that I have not exculpated myſelf from the charge brought againſt me, of having written that letter to the Governor General; and that you have, in conſequence, determined to ſuſpend me from the ſervice of the Company, until the pleaſure of the Court of Directors ſhall be known.—As my reſtoration to the ſervice will therefore depend on the pleaſure of the Court of Directors, and it will be neceſſary for me to make an application to them, I requeſt,

that you will be pleaſed to order me an atteſted copy of your proceedings relative to this affair, to enable me to remonſtrate with greater effect.

Sirampore,
24th September 1780.

I have the honour, &c.

(Signed) G. BRIGHT.

Ordered, That the Secretary do inform Mr. Bright, that he is already in poſſeſſion of the charge of the Board, and of the opinion of the Board upon his defence againſt that charge; and that there is nothing elſe neceſſary for his information.

EXTRACT of the General Letter from Bengal, dated 29th November 1780.

Para. 69. We are ſorry to acquaint you of the neceſſity under which we have been, of ſuſpending from the ſervice of the Company Mr. George Bright.—The letter to the Governor General, of which he was charged with being the author, appears on our proceedings of the 10th Auguſt; and his reply to it, together with another letter which he addreſſed to the Governor General, on Conſultation of the 4th September.—His conduct is indefenſible; we ſhall not give ourſelves the trouble of beſtowing on it any comment.

EXTRACT of the Company's General Letter to Bengal, dated 12th July 1782.

Para. 20. The extraordinary and unbecoming letters ſent by Mr. George Bright to our Governor General, and by him ſubmitted to the conſideration of your Board, could not fail to excite our ſurprize and indignation—To animadvert upon them would be beneath us.

The very proper ſentence of ſuſpenſion from our ſervice which you paſſed upon Mr. Bright, in conſequence of thoſe letters, has been followed by us with diſmiſſion; he muſt therefore be ordered to proceed to England.—We would have you make it known, that we ſhall always conſider any indignity offered to our Governor General, or to any of our Council, as an inſult to ourſelves, and will invariably reſent it accordingly.

COPY of all Accounts received of the Ships Betſy and Nonſuch, and of the Succeſs of their Voyage to Canton, in the Year 1782, when laden with Opium; of all Letters written by the Supra Cargoes at Canton on the ſame Subject; of Advices from Bengal and China, relative to the Exportation of Opium to China, on the Company's Account; and of Orders to Bengal on the ſame Subject; together with Copies of Minutes of Sir John Macpherſon, Baronet, of 9th April and 11th July 1785, relative to Opium.

EXTRACT of the Company's General Letter to Bengal, dated the 12th July 1782.

55. WE have your advices before us reſpecting the diſpoſal of 1,460 cheſts of opium on the Company's account at Rhio, and other places in the ſtreights of Malacca, the net produce of which was to be paid into the hands of our ſupra cargoes at Canton; and we do not ſee any objection to the ſcheme.

56. But

56. But with regard to the conſignment of 2,000 cheſts of opium immediately to the ſupra cargoes, to be diſpoſed of in ſuch manner as they ſhall think proper, we have been informed, that the importation of opium to China is forbidden by the Chineſe government on very ſevere penalties; the opium, on ſeizure, is burnt, the veſſel on which it is brought to the port confiſcated, and the Chineſe in whoſe poſſeſſion it may be found for ſale puniſhed with death. Under any circumſtances, it is beneath the Company to be engaged in ſuch a clandeſtine trade; we therefore hereby poſitively prohibit any more opium being ſent to China on the Company's account.

EXTRACT of the General Letter from Canton, dated 28th December 1782.

Par. 35. On the 21ſt July the Nonſuch, Captain William Richardſon, arrived in Macao Roads, from Bengal, laſt from Bencoolen, having on board opium on account of the Honourable Company, and packets from both thoſe Preſidencies.

37. The Governor General and Council of Bengal inform us, that they have laden on the Nonſuch 1,601 cheſts of opium on account of the Honourable Company, amounting to current rupees 8,25,023. 5. 11; that they had drawn upon us for the ſum of 38,048 Spaniſh dollars in favour of Lieutenant Colonel Henry Watſon, being the amount of the freight due to him for the opium laden on the Nonſuch; alſo for the further ſum of 3,805 dollars, payable to Lieutenant Colonel Henry Watſon's order, being the amount of what they had agreed to allow the Captain and Officers of the Nonſuch in lieu of privilege. That they had agreed, that all the Port and Factory charges incurred on account of the Nonſuch, while in the Company's ſervice, ſhould be at their expence; that they had likewiſe agreed with the owner, Lieutenant Colonel Watſon, to allow him at the rate of one hundred and ten Spaniſh dollars per day for demurrage, provided any part of the Company's opium remained on board after the expiration of forty days, to be eſtimated from the time of her entering Canton river, or coming to an anchor off the port of Macao. They incloſed a copy of Colonel Watſon's orders to the Commander of the Nonſuch; alſo a copy of their orders to Captain Cudbert Thornhill, whom they had charged with the diſpoſal of a quantity of opium laden on the Betſey, of which we ſhall take notice hereafter, and drawn in his favour for ſicca rupees 73,000, being the amount of freight due to him as owner of the Betſey.

38. Lieutenant Colonel Watſon's orders to the Commander of the Nonſuch directed him on no account to attempt the Straits either of Malacca or Sunda, but to ſhape his courſe to the Weſtward of the Iſland of Java, paſſing to the Southward thereof; not to ſpeak to any veſſel, great or ſmall, and ſhew no colours but from neceſſity, during the paſſage from Bengal to the S. E. end of Java; from thence, and during the paſſage through the Eaſtern and China ſeas, to ſpeak with all veſſels, except ſuch as appeared formidable, that he might get intelligence of any cruizers that might be ſtationed in the narrow ſeas; to ſhew French colours from Java to the Philippine iſlands, and from thence to China a Spaniſh enſign and pendant; that he was on no account to part with the ſloop which accompanied, except on being chaſed by a ſhip of equal force, which he was to avoid; to be conſtantly on his guard againſt any ſurprize while at anchor in any port or harbour, and to enter the river of Canton as an armed ſhip, and give notice to us of his arrival, and not proceed further without our orders.

39. Notwithſtanding the above directions, we are informed that the Nonſuch was above a month in the Straits of Malacca, at Acheen, Quidah, &c. where ſhe diſpoſed of a conſiderable quantity of opium on private account, and did not depart from thence before they received intelligence from a Portugueſe, that four Dutch ſhips were cruizing for them; they were afterwards at Fort Marlborough, and the Patna ſloop, which was on no account to part from the Nonſuch, was diſpatched to Bengal with the produce of the opium ſold in the Straits.

40. The Nonſuch is a new frigate-built ſhip, ſheathed with copper, carries 32 guns, and has on board a detatchment of ſepoys. According to agreement ſhe was to receive not leſs than 2,000 cheſts of opium for the Company; but, from the quantity of private property laden on her, was not able to receive more than 1,601. Beſides the opium before mentioned, there was alſo a quantity of lead, elephants teeth, and ſome gold.

41. The

41. The agreement with Captain Thornhill ſpecified, that he ſhould proceed to Rhio, in the Straits of Malacca, where he was to endeavour to diſpoſe of the 1,466 Cheſts of opium laden on the Betſey to the beſt advantage, in exchange for which he was to receive Spaniſh dollars, tin, pepper, or other commodities ſuited to the China market; that he was to be joined in the month of June by the Company's armed ſhip Yarmouth, then on a voyage to the coaſt of Coromandel with ſtores, which would aſſiſt him in tranſporting to China ſuch goods as he ſhould receive in exchange for the opium, and alſo protect him againſt the enemy.

42. Had this voyage been accompliſhed, we have great reaſon to imagine that the Honourable Company would have reaped conſiderable advantage from it. It is therefore with great ſorrow we inform your Honours, that the Betſey was captured in the month of March laſt, by a ſmall privateer, called the St. Thereſe, in company with one of the Dutch Company's ſhips, but not before as much of the opium had been ſold as produced the ſum of Dollars 59,600, which was paid into the Honourable Company's Treaſury, according to agreement.

43. As the freight of this ſhip, as well as the Nonſuch, was paid before hand, contrary to the uſual cuſtom, we were under the neceſſity (thouh with regret) of accepting the bills drawn on us to that amount.

44. The object of the Honourable the Governor and Supreme Council of Bengal, was to raiſe a ſum of money to anſwer the exigencies of the Honourable Company's affairs in that part of India, and at the ſame time afford us a ſupply for providing the inveſtment of the preſent year, which money was to be raiſed by ſubſcription; and upon the receipt thereof the ſubſcribers were entitled to certificates, which they were to exchange here for our bills on the Honourable Court of Directors; that if the amount of the cargoes, when ſold, ſhould not come up to the ſum ſubſcribed, a proportionate deduction was to be made by us from every ſum ſubſcribed, and the difference repaid to the ſubſcribers at Bengal, with an intereſt of 8 per cent. per annum; and if the ſale or ſafe arrival of the opium ſhould by any accident be prevented, the money to be repaid to the ſubſcribers at the Treaſury in Fort William, with the intereſt above mentioned.

45. The importation of opium being ſtrongly prohibited by the Chineſe Government, and a buſineſs altogether new to us, it was neceſſary to take our meaſures with the utmoſt caution. As this article is frequently diſpoſed of at Macao, where it can be landed without interruption, we at firſt determined to keep the ſhip a few days at that place, till ſomething could be agreed on relative to the diſpoſal of the cargo; but on conſulting with Sinqua, one of the newly-appointed Hong merchants, and a conſiderable dealer in opium, he was of opinion her remaining there might cauſe inquiries to be made, which would be attended with inconveniences; at the ſame time aſſured us he would uſe every endeavour to ſerve the Company upon this occaſion. We had alſo acquainted Poan Khequa with the affair, who gave it as his opinion that the ſhip ſhould go to Whampoa, to prevent ſuſpicion: We therefore ordered Captain Richardſon to proceed thither; and likewiſe ſent for our Chop to return to Canton. In the mean time we had ſeveral conferences with Sinqua, whom we wiſhed to treat with for the ſale of the cargo; he would not, however, come to any concluſion till we had ſeen Poan Khequa, whom he was very deſirous ſhould take ſome part of it in conjunction with him, and whoſe power and influence he thought would protect him, in caſe of any trouble from the Mandarins, which is ſometimes attended with very ſerious conſequences; we therefore, having received our Chop, returned to Canton, where we arrived on the 18th of Auguſt. We took the firſt opportunity after our arrival to ſee Poan Khequa, to whom we repreſented the great ſervice he would render the Honourable Company, if he could ſuggeſt any plan to aſſiſt us in the diſpoſal of the Nonſuch's cargo. He ſaid his exertion ſhould be uſed; that he would conſult with Sinqua on his arrival from Macao, and endeavour at ſome expedient to ſerve us; but declared he would not take any concern in it himſelf. On Sinqua's arrival they had ſeveral meetings, but without coming to any determination. We wiſhed very much that Sinqua would purchaſe it and Poan Khequa become ſecurity for the payment. This however could not be accompliſhed, as Poan Khequa was unwilling to have his name made uſe of in the affair in any ſhape whatever; in which he certainly was not to blame, as it might, if known, afford his numerous enemies an opportunity to give him infinite trouble.

46. After many deſultory conferences, the following propoſals were made us by Sinqua; he offered 200 head dollars per cheſt, to pay 100,000 on or before the Chineſe new year (2d of February) and to diſcharge the whole in twelve months from the time the agreement ſhould be concluded. We told him, that on ſuch terms the Company would be conſiderable loſers, and preſſed him to offer ſomething more: He then propoſed

propoſed 210 dollars, declaring that was the higheſt price he could venture to afford. Should his terms be accepted, he propoſed purchaſing a ſhip at Macao, on which he would lade 1,400 cheſts, for the Malay Coaſt, and ſell the reſt at Whampoa.

47. His reaſon for exporting it is the immenſe quantities brought by the Macao ſhips, which has ſo well ſupplied the preſent demand, as not to afford him an opportunity of diſpoſing of any conſiderable part of it to advantage. Though theſe terms are not very advantageous, they were only once offered to us during the ſpace of more than three months that the ſhip had been here. Sinqua, though a new man to us, is a Hong merchant, has great credit, and has tranſacted buſineſs of this kind with individuals to a great amount, and has always diſcharged his obligations with honour and punctuality; we therefore determined to accept his terms, ſeeing no other alternative but to return the cargo to Bengal, by which the Honourable Company would have incurred the riſk of the ſeas and enemies, the payment of a high freight, and 8 per cent. per annum on ten lacks of rupees.

48. The loſs to the Honourable Company, including port charges, demurrage, factory charges, allowed the Captain, will amount to about 69,973 dollars. For the particulars we beg leave to refer your honours to the encloſed account current, and account ſales.

49. Had the Supreme Council, which it was in their power to do, prevented the exportation of opium on the Macao ſhips, or had the Commander, agreeably to his orders, proceeded to China without deviation, by which he would have arrived above a month before them, we have not the leaſt doubt but it might have been ſold to a conſiderable advantage; but on a review of theſe circumſtances, with the extravagant and unuſual terms of the freight, demurrage, factory charges, &c. we cannot help being of opinion, that private conſiderations have been ſuffered to interfere too much, for any benefit that may have been intended to the Honourable Company.

50. We hope for the Honourable Court's approbation of our conduct in this affair; the novelty and nature of the conſignment has been the ſource of much trouble and anxiety; and though we wiſh to have had in our power to do better, we may truly ſay we have exceeded our expectations.

51. As the cargo is to be delivered at Macao, we diſpatched Mr. Bruce to that place to give the neceſſary directions, and return the bill of lading.

52. By the terms of the agreement with Sinqua, the Nonſuch's cargo was to be delivered by the end of November, but on account of the private trade the Grand Chop could not be procured before the 12th December.

53. As this ſhip has no returning cargo, and the ſecurity merchant would be thereby ſubject to the exactions of the Hoppo for deficiency of duties, we applied to Poan Khequa, Chowqua, Mungua, and Shy Kinqua, to become joint ſecurities, whom we underſtand the Hoppo has compelled to promiſe the ſum of 20,000 tales on that account, and the pretence of her being a ſhip of war, of which, on account of the ſepoys on board, he cannot, nor will not be perſuaded to the contrary.

86. The Governor General and Council of Bengal acquainted us, that it was their intention to tranſmit to us liſts of the certificates granted on each ſhip, diſtinguiſhing thoſe granted on the Nonſuch from thoſe on the Betſey: Only one liſt, however, was ſent us, but neither in that nor in the certificates was any diſtinction. To wait till we could have further advices from Bengal would not only have been a great hardſhip and inconvenience to thoſe whoſe certificates were arrived, but a loſs to the Company, of 8 per cent. per annum on the whole ſubſcription. We therefore thought it adviſeable, as the ſubſcription for the Nonſuch was not opened till ſome months after the Betſey's, to admit thoſe of a later date, and rejected the earlier ones; for theſe we granted bills to the amount of dollars 222,941 3 -66ths; how many certificates remain to be preſented we are yet ignorant, as well as the amount of the ſubſcription, ſo that we have not had it in our power to make any proportionate deduction, agreeable to the terms of the adverti ſement, if it ſhould exceed the produce of the cargo. We tranſmitted a liſt of the certificates accepted to the Honourable the Governor General and Council, that they may be enabled to clear up any miſtakes our want of information may have occaſioned.

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, 10th February 1783.

EXTRACT of Letter from the Supra Cargoes at Canton to the Governor General and Council, dated 26th November 1782.

By the Nonſuch, which arrived in the roads of Macao the 21ſt July laſt, we had the honour to receive your ſeveral letters, dated the 2d January and 5th of February 1782, and 29th October 1781, addreſſed to the Council of 1780, wherein you mention, that you had ſhipped on her 1,601 cheſts of opium for this place, from the impracticability of diſpoſing of it in the uſual manner at a reaſonable rate, and that its produce might ſupply us with funds for purchaſing our inveſtment; that you had entered into engagements with Mr. Cudbert Thornhill, for paying into our Treaſury the produce of 1,466 cheſts of opium, laden on the Betſey, to be diſpoſed of by him at the Malay ports for the ſame purpoſe; and that certificates had been granted to the amount of ten lacks of rupees on each concern, for which bills were to be drawn by us at the terms of the ſeaſon.

We are now to inform you, that the opium by the Nonſuch has been diſpoſed of, after numerous difficulties, at the rate of 210 head dollars per cheſt, 100,000 dollars to be paid on or before the 2d February 1783, the remainder in the courſe of 12 months: Theſe were the beſt and only terms we were able to procure, on account of the great quantity brought to Macao in the ſhips belonging to that City. We lament that when your Board determined to ſend this article here on the Company's account, ſo much was permitted to be brought by individuals, as that circumſtance may be ſaid with truth to have ruined the ſale of the Nonſuch's cargo, and defeated in a great meaſure the intent of a ſupply for the preſent year, by laying us under the neceſſity of allowing ſuch a long credit to the purchaſer, who can have no proſpect of ſelling any conſiderable part of it here.

The benefit reſulting to the Honourable Company, and the relief which we are ſenſible it muſt afford you, have induced us to uſe every poſſible means of diſpoſing of this cargo to the beſt advantage; we muſt nevertheleſs beg leave to repreſent to you, that the difficulties and inconveniences attending it are ſo great, that we could wiſh you would not in future purſue the ſame method of ſupplying us with funds, except in the laſt neceſſity, in which caſe no diligence and care ſhall be wanting on our part to enſure ſucceſs. If the urgency of affairs ſhould compel you to ſuch a ſtep, we requeſt you will effectually prevent individuals, either Foreigners or Engliſh, from exporting any opium for this market, as the only ground on which we can flatter ourſelves with any hopes of relieving you in the diſpoſal of this articles.

You mention that it is your intention to ſend us liſts of their certificates, diſtinguiſhing ſuch as are granted on the Nonſuch from thoſe granted on the Betſy: One liſt only has been received by us, and in that no ſuch diſtinction is to be found, we have therefore been under ſome difficulties how to determine, and are yet far from being certain there may not be ſome miſtakes; as the ſubſcription for the Nonſuch was opened ſome time after that for the Betſey, we thought the moſt adviſeable mode of diſtinguiſhing, would be to adjudge thoſe of a late date to the Nonſuch, for theſe amounting to rupees 5,53,488, dollars 222,943. 177 Das, we ſhall grant bills, the remainder have not been preſented; therefore, as we are ignorant of the amount of the ſubſcription, we have not been able to make a proportionate deduction, if it ſhould exceed the produce of the cargo: An inconvenience you muſt be convinced that could not be avoided, unleſs we had deferred granting any bills till next ſeaſon, which would have been a great hardſhip on thoſe whoſe certificates are already come to hand, as well as loſs to the Company. We encloſe a liſt of certificates on which bills are to be granted, that you may be enabled to clear up any miſtakes we may have committed.

Captain Robert Geddes has paid into our Treaſury pillar dollars 59,600, for which we have granted him three receipts. The unfortunate capture of the Betſy you will have known long before this reaches your hands.

CERTIFICATES

CERTIFICATES RECEIV

When dated.	To whom granted.	Spaniſh Dollars. Whole Nos.	Dc Pts	Current Rupe s.	Numrs.	When dated.
9th Feb.	To Lieutenant Arthur Ahmuty -	14,758	473	36,640 0 0		
Do.	To Major John Fullerton -	1,337	285	3,320 0 0	45	March.
Do.	To Lieutenant J. H. Hutchinſon -	334	321	830 0 0	46	Do.
Do.	To Doctor Thomas Dunn -	668	643	1,660 0 0	47	Do.
11th Do.	To John Macpherſon -	4,027	968	10,000 0 0	48	Do.
Do.	To Captain Donald Macleod - -	3,222	374	8,000 0 0	49	Do.
9th Do.	To Lieutenant James Sinclair -	2,310	846	5,737 0 0	50	Do.
12th Do.	To James Peter Auriol - - -	4,027	968	10,000 0 0	51	Do.
Do.	To Mathew Dawſon - -	13,695	09	34,000 0 0	52	Do.
13th Do.	To. F. Redfearn - -	1,208	39	3,000 0 0	53	Do.
16th Do.	To J. E. Colebrooke - -	334	321	830 0 0	54	Do.
Do.	To W. K. Amhurſt - -	334	321	830 0 0	55	Do.
15th Do.	To Lieutenant Colonel Hannay -	2,674	571	6,640 0 0	56	Do.
Do.	To William Blane - -	668	643	1,060 0 0	57	Do.
Do.	To the eſtate of W. Maxwell -	24,167	85	60,000 0 0	58	Do.
Do.	To Charles Bently - -	5,236	358	13,000 0 0	59	Do.
					60	Do.
12th Do.	To Henry Goodwin - -	4,027	968	10,000 0 0	61	Do.
Do.	To Lieutenant Thomas Thompſon	4,027	968	10,000 0 0	62	Do.
Do.	To John and W. Wilſon, and Mark Bull	2,013	984	5,000 0 0	63	Do.
Do.	To George Gardner - -	2,013	984	5,000 0 0	64	Do.
14th Do.	To Major Silveſter Ramſay - -	1,208	390	3,000 0 0	65	Do.
Do.	To Captain Robert Baille -	805	594	2,000 0 3	66	Do.
Do.	To Charles Broughton - -	1,312	714	3,259 0 0	67	Do.
Do.	To Captain Samuel Lears - -	805	595	2,000 0 0	68	Do.
Do.	To Patrick Heatly - -	1,208	390	3,000 0 0	69	Do.
Do.	To Lieutenant John Shipton - -	402	797	1,000 0 0	70	Do.
Do.	To W. F. Gardner, Surgeon -	402	797	1,000 0 0	71	22 Feb.
Do.	To George Gardner - -	2,013	984	5,000 0 0	72	19 Do.
11th Do.	To David Anderſon - - -	6,041	952	15,000 0 0	73	Do.
Do.	To John Watſon - -	2,013	984	5,000 0 0	74	Do.
Do.	To Captain Thomas Call -	4,027	968	10,000 0 0	75	Do.
Do.	To Lieutenant James Anderſon -	2,013	984	5,000 0 0	76	Do.
Do.	To Doctor Patrick Conellan -	826	540	2,052 3 0	77	Do.
21ſt Do.	To S. G. Heatly - -	2,674	571	6,640 0 0	78	Do.
					79	Do.
	Carried forward	1,16,850	540	2,90,098 0 0	80	Do.
					81	Do.
					90	8 Do.
					91	13 Do.
					92	26 March
					93	Do.
					94	16 Feb.
					95	Do.
					96	Do.
					97	Do.
					98	19 Do.
					99	Do.
					100	Do.

hen dated.	To whom granted.	Spaniſh Dollars. Whole Nrs.	Dt Ptt	Current Rupees.
	Brought forward —	116,850	540	2,90,098 0 0
March.	To Major Lewis Grant - -	1,337	285	3,320 0 0
Do.	To A. Hunter, Surgeon - -	668	643	1,660 0 0
Do.	To the eſtate of Lieutenant James Claretrue	334	321	830 0 0
Do.	To the eſtate of Enſign Robert Blair	334	321	830 0 0
Do.	To Hugh Mair, Surgeon - -	668	643	1,660 0 0
Do.	To George Boyd, Surgeon -	668	643	1,660 0 0
Do.	To Alexander Carnegy, Surgeon -	668	643	1,660 0 0
Do.	To John Ferguſſon, - Do. -	668	643	1,660 0 0
Do.	To James Baillie, - Do. - -	668	643	1,660 0 0
Do.	To James Hunter, - Do. -	668	643	1,660 0 0
Do.	To Lieutenant P. Hunter - -	334	321	830 0 0
Do.	To Do. G. Hutchinſon - -	334	321	830 0 0
Do.	To Do. J. Mac Colme -	334	321	830 0 0
Do.	To Do. J. Smith - -	334	321	830 0 0
Do.	To Do. D. Reid - -	334	321	830 0 0
Do.	To Do. Benjamin Roſs - -	334	321	830 0 0
Do.	To Do. James Mitchell -	334	321	830 0 0
Do.	To Do. Alexander Burrowes -	334	321	830 0 0
Do.	To Do. William Scott -	334	321	830 0 0
Do.	To Enſign James Cathcart -	334	321	830 0 0
Do.	To Do. Peter Grant - -	334	321	830 0 0
Do.	To Do. John Adams - -	334	321	830 0 0
Do.	To Do. William Yule - -	334	321	830 0 0
Do.	To Do. William Bearly -	334	321	830 0 0
Do.	To Captain Robert Gardiner -	668	643	1,660 0 0
Do.	To Charles Bently - -	6,444	749	16,000 0 0
22 Feb.	To Henry Grant - -	40,279	675	100,000 0 0
19 Do.	To Colonel James Morgan - -	5,349	141	13,280 0 0
Do.	To Lady Littleton - -	5,349	141	13,280 0 0
Do.	To Nathanial Middleton - -	2,674	571	6,640 0 0
Do.	To James Irwine - -	2,674	571	6,640 0 0
Do.	To Richard Johnſon - -	2,674	571	6,640 0 0
Do.	To Charles Croſtes - -	2,674	571	6,640 0 0
Do.	To the eſtate of William Wynne	2,674	571	6,640 0 0
Do.	To the eſtate of Major S. Kilpatrick	1,337	284	3,320 0 0
Do.	To Major James Browne - -	1,337	284	3,320 0 0
Do.	To Thomas Letham, Surgeon -	668	643	1,660 0 0
8 Do.	To Joſeph Dixon - -	3,222	374	8,000 0 0
13 Do.	To Major General Stibbert -	5,236	358	13,000 0 0
26 March	To Simeon Droz - -	5,236	358	13,000 0 0
Do.	To Major Thomas Gardiner -	1,208	390	3,000 0 0
16 Feb.	To Major W. Cook - -	1,337	284	3,320 0 0
Do.	To Captain Thomas Blair -	668	643	1,660 0 0
Do.	To Captain Robert Blair - -	668	643	1,660 0 0
Do.	To John Armſtrong - -	668	643	1,660 0 0
19 Do.	To Captain Richard Walker -	668	643	1,660 0 0
Do.	To W. Walker, Surgeon - -	668	643	1,660 0 0
Do.	To Robert Wilſon, Aſſiſtant Surgeon	334	321	830 0 0
		222,943	177	5,53,488 0 0

EXTRA

We are f
have prefer
We beg lea
out of wh
opium.

The Gov
Captain TH
her cargo o

Hono

Some da
dah, found
to conclud
they ought
with the K
his alliance
hopes whic
and Ballam
Governmer
greatest pa
ance: The
licee Islan
Mandar, th
they had b
Dutch hav
per pecul.
Europeans
may concl
European c
fitted for v
murdered
September
there is no
terest; tha
and the Ch
vised them
treaty the
demand—
and his wo
of the Dut

To poin
and the pr
parison of
lye to the
the purch
been carri
shew then

EXTRACT of a Letter from the Supra Cargoes at Canton to the Governor General and Council the 12th December 1782.

We are ſorry the cheſts of opium were not covered in the uſual manner with gunnies, it would have preſerved the cheſts (which are now in very bad order) as well as the opium, from damage. We beg leave to inform you, that only fifteen cheſts have yet been delivered to the purchaſer, out of which one has been returned, being leaves and dirt, mixed with a ſmall quantity of opium.

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, the 3d March 1783.

The Governor General lays before the Board the following papers, which he has received from Captain Thornhill, who is juſt returned from China, concerning the capture of the Betſy, with her cargo of opium, at Rhio.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

Some days after the departure of Captain Thomas Forreſt from this port, I arrived from Quedah, found here deputies from Rajah Hadgie, King of Rhio, to Captain Forreſt, with full powers to conclude a treaty offenſive with the Engliſh. In his abſence they applied to me for advice how they ought to proceed, and in confidence informed me, that Rajah Hadgie had concluded a treaty with the King of that diſtrict of the Lelebes called Gua; that he was endeavouring to detach from his alliance with the Dutch the king of the diſtrict called Bony, which ſurrounds Meaſſer, and had hopes which the appearance of the Engliſh would greatly faciliate; that the Sultans of Maltarram and Ballam Goang, on Java, with Palimbang and Banſar, were all in waiting; and as the Wadjou Government were always maintaining a piratical war, they had the whole iſland of Lelebes, and greateſt part of Java; Malacca was his concern, and he required for ſaid attempt but little aſſiſtance: They inform me, as news, that they are with certainty informed, that the Sultans of the Molicee Iſlands have attacked the Dutch under the Sultan of Tidore; that by two Prows from Mandar, they hear that the people of Ceram have ſurprized and taken the fort of Amboyna, that they had brought 100 pecul of cloves to Bally, of which 32 pecul have come to Rhio. That the Dutch have had no veſſel from Europe ſince the beginning of the war. That iron is 33 Sp. Ds. per pecul. One inſtance of their diſtreſs;—and if we take the uſual decrements of life among Europeans in Batavia, they can have very few Europeans remaining, which with certainty we may conclude from the following circumſtances; viz. the ſtore ſhip to Malacca had only ten European officers included; the people of Bally have taken, plundered, and burnt one of their ſhips fitted for war; and it is reported that the natives on board two ſhips laying in Batavia roads had murdered the Dutch, and ſailed for Bencoolen; that there was only five ſhips in Batavia roads in September laſt; that from interior information, he is aſſured, invalids and civilians incluſive, there is not above 100 Europeans in Malacca, and of them the mercantile are in the Engliſh intereſt; that their 600 new-raiſed Malays he conſiders as his own, though paid by the Dutch; and the Chineſe he knows won't fight.—This contains the ſubſtance of their information: I adviſed them, as they had miſſed Captain Forreſt, to ſend an ambaſſador to Bengal to conclude the treaty there, and perſonally ſolicit aſſiſtance, ſuch as the Engliſh could ſpare, or the ſervice demand—in mean time to leave no ſtone unturned to conſolidate all the Javans, all the Buggehes, and his weſtern confederates, to be ready to attack at once; which, by diſtracting the attention of the Dutch, would facilitate their ſchemes.

To point out the difference betwixt the independent ſovereigns connected only with Engliſh traders, and the puppets to which the Dutch leave the name of kings; to ſtimulate their avarice by a compariſon of the prices which they now receive, with thoſe the Engliſh daily give; to give the direct lye to the aſſertion of the Dutch, that the Engliſh Company have no dollars, and are unequal to the purchaſe of the whole of their produce, as you know that 40,000 peculs tin and pepper have been carried from Rhio by traders, which they dignify with the name of pirates, in one year; to ſhew them, as the Dutch are now incapable to fulfil their contracts, theſe contracts virtually ceaſe

to be in force, and from the failure on the part of the Dutch the Rajahs are, conſiſtent with juſtice, at liberty to renew them or not; that ſhould they incline, as independent ſovereigns, to give a preference to the Engliſh, I could venture to aſſure them, that the Engliſh would willingly accept theſe contracts, and give in much more equitable terms than they at preſent had, and would not only take their yearly produce after the war, but likewiſe ſuch ſurplus as might remain in their hands at the end of this preſent war; that in their connections with the Engliſh, I could aſſure them from authority, that they would not change their tyrants, but would find the protection of a father, they giving an equivalent, in the exactneſs of fulfilling their contracts, as the baſis of the ſeparate trade propoſed to be eſtabliſhed, they well knowing that in all ſuch connections the advantages muſt be reciprocal, otherwiſe they will not be laſting; They ſaid, the truth of what I advanced was notoriouſly known to all, and accordingly would appear, ſhould even a ſmall force come from the Engliſh, and even without force, in the preſent weak ſtate of the Dutch, they were ſufficiently ſtrong to relieve themſelves; could they only be aſſured of the protection of the Engliſh, when the preſent war ceaſes—they returned to Rhio in a few days, and I have not yet learnt whether they have or mean to ſend a man to Bengal.

Should theſe people apply, and our means enable us to aſſiſt them, whoever commands muſt bring with him a ſtock of patience to bear with the tedious conſultation, and their *outré* modes of executing their reſolves; and muſt expect very little aſſiſtance from them in the offenſive operations of the war, they having little courage; but their numbers, their knowledge of the ſcenes of action, their many and quick-ſailing prows, their actual addreſs in a deſultory war, the plenty which nature has given them, and their prompt obedience to their Rajahs, would greatly facilitate any offenſive plan, and would procure a quick intelligence, eaſy conveyance, and certain ſupplies of proviſions.

Among the people who purpoſe to engage in this buſineſs, there are two motives for action, tending to the ſame end. The people immediately under the Dutch are actuated by a ſpirit of revenge, a remembrance of recent injuries, and the hopes of an enlarged trade, and delivery from oppreſſion; their endeavours are therefore to be depended on, as both their own paſſions and the orders of their Rajahs coincide. The people under Rajah Hadgee, who are only under the Dutch when at ſea, and who frequently ſuffer from their guarda coſtas, have by theſe depredations, and the memory of the Malacca war, a ſtrong diſlike to the Dutch; and from the liberal connections and trade of the Engliſh, a predilection in their favour. For their king, he has engaged his pride and honour in a fruitleſs demand of the reſtitution of the Betſey, C. Giddes, in which negociation the Dutch have treated him with great haughtineſs, and ſome ſlights: But an attempt to introduce 600 buggees into Malacca, and a diſcovery of ſome improper connections he was forming in Malacca, prevented his attempt for the preſent, and occaſioned a mutual diſtruſt, ſo that he will find it difficult to regain his ſituation; and I have reaſon to think that he would declare againſt the Dutch, were he aſſured of the Engliſh protection.

Theſe two diviſions likewiſe ſtand in a different relation to the Engliſh in their own opinion, though no real diſtinction ſubſiſts; thoſe under the Dutch, whatever oppreſſions they may ſuſtain, have only to lament, while Rhio, Salengore, and Trangano are conſidered by the eaſtern people and themſelves as belonging to the Engliſh; and it is only from their ignorance that they have not endeavoured to place themſelves in a nearer relation; of courſe, any accident happening to them would be conſidered as a ſlur on the Engliſh, and ſome eclat to the Dutch.

On the whole it is my opinion, that the appearance of any force would put the Dutch in a general conſternation, and all the natives in motion; but with two ſhips of the line, a 40 gun ſhip, one frigate, and one veſſel of 20 guns, the Dutch have nothing to make even an attempt to moleſt, imprudent.—It is true they have four ſhips, fitted with from 40 to 56 guns, and 18 pounders on their lower decks, but they are not one third manned, and have no officers; and they have no force (Batavia excepted) able to meet 500 ſepoys, 100 Europeans, Artillery included, in the field; from which I conclude the force ſpecified equal to the reduction of every ſettlement the Dutch have, Batavia excepted: The tranſports ſhould be armed for the ſake of appearance, and our firſt attempt on Malacca. But ſhould our diſtreſſing ſituation on the coaſt diſable us from ſending any force which could act openly, yet a couple of good ſailing frigates to cut off the Malacca ſupplies, and of courſe the French from thence, to beam or ſink all their guarda coſtas, which would looſe the hands of the natives, make communication ſafe and eaſy, throw trade open, and give them a taſte of its emoluments, with ſundry other advantages. Half a million Dutch property went to China in junks laſt year. If any Letters of Marque are granted, they ought to be more confin-

ed

ed than the Death and Glory's; as, if we mean to uſe the natives as friends, to attack and ſeize their property, on whatever pretext, is ſurely impolitic.

The French fleet arrived in November in Acheen in a miſerable plight, 10 ſhips of the line, and 4 ſmaller veſſels; they have in general left half their complements, which are poor, ſupplied with half-ſtarved releaſes. They had no maſts, no proviſions, almoſt without clothes—every captain, officer, and man, diſſatisfied with the admiral, who has never paid wages nor prize money ſince he came to the command; 5 are ſent to the Mauritius in irons, for miſbehaviour in the laſt action with Admiral Hughes, and in general they have no officers.

January 20th. Have juſt heard that the Dutch fleet, conſiſting of two ſhips, and one gran ketch from Batavia, with the Malacca ſtore ſhip, one ſnow, two ſloops guarda coſtas, and two Java ſnows as tranſports, are gone to Rhio.

(DUPLICATE.)

Cudbert Thornhill, Eſquire.

Sir,

In my laſt, by St. Cruz, I acquainted you that we had got the ſhip Betſey into the river Rhio, where I imagined ſhe was very ſafe from any attempts of an enemy (this being a neutral port) but I am truly ſorry to acquaint you now, that it has proved otherwiſe, owing entirely to the treacherous behaviour of the Mallays towards us.

On the morning of the firſt of March four veſſels made their appearance in the Offing, and came into the roads the ſame day; they proved to be a Dutch ſhip of forty guns, a French ſhip of eighteen guns, and a Dutch ſnow and ſloop, armed veſſels of ten guns each. On the morning of the ſecond, I found the French ſhip was warping into the river; I immediately moved the Betſey further up, cloſe to the Mallay fort (where they have a boom acroſs the river) and ſent to the King repeatedly for leave to paſs, and carry the ſhip up to town; but he put us off from time to time with evaſive anſwers, and at laſt told us poſitively we could not paſs: this was what I never knew refuſed to an Engliſh ſhip before. I had alſo propoſed to Rajah Ally (the perſon who bought the three hundred cheſts) to land a quantity of the opium into his godowns to lighten the ſhip, in order to carry her up the river with more eaſe; this he had conſented to and promiſed to ſend his prows for it in the night; but this the King thought proper to prevent. By this time, being the afternoon of the ſecond, the French ſhip had got into the river, and almoſt within gun ſhot of us; and finding that the ſnow and ſloop alſo were coming in, I went aſhore myſelf to the King, who was at his fort, and acquainted him of this circumſtance; at the ſame time told him, that as he would not let us paſs the boom, I intended to go alongſide of the French ſhip, and engage her (this we could eaſily have done, being then juſt high water) but I thought we could not expect to do from all the three. His anſwer was, that I muſt by no means do ſo, for if I did, he would look upon me as an aggreſſor in his port, and turn his guns upon me accordingly; and at the ſame time aſſured me, he would do the ſame by the French and Dutch, ſhould they fire firſt. This, indeed, both him and many of the principal people of the place had told me before, and that they would by no means ſuffer the ſhip to be taken in their port. All this I thought appeared very reaſonable, had they only been as good as their words. They had by this time got all their guns in the fort loaded and ready, and not leſs than fifteen hundred armed men in it, beſides about fifteen prows with two great guns each. All theſe preparations and aſſurances led me to believe that they were in earneſt. I had then no remedy left, but to moor the ſhip to the beſt advantage where ſhe was (which I did acroſs the river, within a ſtone's throw of their fort) and truſt to their promiſed aſſiſtance, which I think they had in their power to give us very effectually.

In this ſituation we continued until the morning of the fourth, by which time the ſhip, ſnow, and ſloop, were moored in a line abreaſt of us, within gunſhot (I mean their gunſhot, the French ſhips being nine and twelve pounders, and the ſnow and ſloop was ſupplied with two eighteen pounders each; and men alſo from the Dutch ſhip, which continued in the roads). They being thus prepared, the French ſhip began to fire, which we immediately returned, and

continued

continued four or five broadſides. But finding that none of our ſhot reached them, being moſtly four pounders, whilſt theirs either ſtruck our ſhip, or went over her (though they luckily did not kill any of our people; and finding that the Mallays did not offer to fire a gun, or give us the leaſt aſſiſtance, as they had promiſed, I ordered our firing to ceaſe) it being of no uſe, at the diſtance they had choſe to engage us; and called the officers, &c. upon deck, and aſked their opinion, which coincided with my own, and was, that we had it not in our power to injure the enemy. The ſhip was moored with four anchors down, and could not be moved in the face of their fire; indeed, had their been no enemy, it would have been difficult, it being then low water, and the river ſo narrow, that two of our anchors were high and dry in the mud, one on each ſide the river. We thought it therefore expedient to ſtrike our colours, to ſave the lives of the people, many of which muſt have been loſt had we perſiſted, without a probability of the loſs of a man on their ſide; and it was evident that we muſt give up the ſhip at laſt to ſo ſuperior a force; and it would have been but a poor conſolation, after throwing away the lives of a number of people to no purpoſe, to have had the vanity of ſaying we fought them ſo long; in ſhort, to have held out longer, at ſuch a diſadvantage, I preſume by the thinking part of mankind would have been deemed next to madneſs. The behavour of the officers, Europeans, and people in general, was ſuch, that I have great reaſon to believe (had there been a proſpect, even a very diſtant one, of ſucceſs) they would have done their duty to the very laſt, before they would have given her up: all theſe circumſtances conſidered, the ſuperior force againſt us, and the perfidious behaviour of the Mallays towards us, &c. will, I hope, induce my honourable employers, and yourſelf, not to cenſure my conduct for giving up the ſhip; and you may reſt aſſured it would not have been the caſe, had there been a probability of ſaving her. And if I may preſume to give my opinion, with due ſubmiſſion to their and your ſuperior judgment, I think the Honourable Company may, with the greateſt propriety, demand reſtitution of the port of Rhio for all the damages ſuſtained by the loſs of the ſhip Betſey and cargo, for they undoubtedly had it in their power to have ſaved her, from the following circumſtances, which we have learnt ſince the capture:—in the firſt place, had we been permitted to paſs the boom, they would not have attempted to follow us, nor attack us even where we were, or come into the river at all, had the King only ſaid he did not chuſe they ſhould. We find there was a conferrence carried on between them from the time of their firſt arrival, and that there was a promiſe made to the King, of a certain ſhare of the prize for his neutrality, if *not aſſiſtance*. I have likewiſe procured a copy of the letter ſent to the King, ſigned by the French and Dutch Captains, after the taking the ſhip, wherein they return him thanks, in the name of the Dutch Company, for his giving them permiſſion to take the ſhip in his port, aſſuring him that they would not have attempted to do it without, and that the Dutch Company will reward him accordingly: alſo one of my officers that went on board the French ſhip to endeavour to procure us ſome of our linen, &c. in diſcourſing with the ſecond Mate of her, aſked him their reaſon for being ſo long in the river before they attacked us: his anſwer was, that the King had not given them leave before, and that he had then ſent to acquaint them that he was now ready, and that the Engliſh ſhip could not now eſcape, ſo that they might attack her: from this I really believe all his preparation was to aſſiſt them (not us) had we been likely to extricate ourſelves.

Having ſold three hundred cheſts of the Honourable Company's opium to the Mallays here, which is not yet paid for, I thought it expedient, after giving up the ſhip, to leave her with as many of the people as our boats would carry, and truſt ourſelves in the hands of the Mallays, at the riſque of our lives, in order to ſave the Honourable Company's property, which was ſtill in their hands; and ſhould no Engliſh ſhip arrive in time, I propoſe endeavouring either to ſell the produce to, or freight it on, ſome of the Portugueze ſhips to Chinn; at any rate I ſhall endeavour to get it out of their hands as ſoon as poſſible, in the beſt manner I can.

I do aſſure you, Sir, that this misfortune has given me infinite concern, for I had the proſpect of making a very great voyage for the Honourable Company, having ſold and delivered three hundred cheſts at a very great price, and agreed for two hundred more, and I am certain would have ſold not leſs than one thouſand cheſts at this port alone, and have paid for the whole in due time for China this ſeaſon. It is needleſs for me to ſay more to you on this ſubject, until I have the pleaſure of ſeeing you. From what I have already ſaid, you will readily conceive the advantages that muſt have accrued to the Honourable Company, had we ſucceeded, as we had reaſon to expect.

Rhio, I am, Sir, &c.
March 15th, 1782. (Signed) ROBERT GEDDES.

P. S. Sold and delivered 100 cheſts. at 390 ea.
Do. —— 200 Do. at 350 ea.
had agreed for 200 more, at 350 ea. but not delivered.

EXTRACT

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, the 28th July, 1783.

EXTRACT of Letter from the Supra Cargoes at Canton, to the Governor General and Council, dated 30th December, 1783.

Two cheſts of opium were deficient, alſo one damaged, which was wrote off the bill of lading.

EXTRACT of General Letter from Bengal, dated 5th April, 1783.

Para. 15. Captain Thornhill, who proceeded from hence into the Straits of Malacca, to aſſiſt in completing the ſale of the opium which had been laden on the Betſey, and to ſuperintend the remittance of its produce to China, being now returned, has delivered us a letter addreſſed to him by Captain Geddes, who commanded the Betſey, giving a full account of her capture in the river of Rhio, which appears to have been contrived and executed by the connivance of the Chief of that place, who had been bribed by the enemy for his forbearance, while their ſhips entered the river, and were allowed to take poſſeſſion of her.

16. A calamity like this cannot fail, in its firſt impreſſion, of ſuggeſting a ſtrong ſuſpicion of miſconduct. From the relation of Captain Geddes, which we have every reaſon to believe to be ſtrictly true, we muſt in juſtice acquit both him and Captain Thornhill of blame for this unfortunate event, although it may leave ſtronger inputation on the original undertaking, from which, had it ſucceeded, we ſhould have derived much credit: It has failed from cauſes which can produce no impeachment of our diſcretion in the grounds on which it was conſtructed, and in effect we had no other reſource. Upon this ſubject we ſhall ſpeak more at large hereafter.

17. The certificates which were granted by us upon this cargo having been rendered null by the loſs of it, we have granted freſh certificates to the holders of ſuch as preferred receiving bills on you at China to the re-payment of their loans here; and theſe certificates will entitle them to bills upon the arrival of the pepper which we had deſired the Preſidency of Fort Malbro' to conſign to Canton, or upon the firſt fund received from us, which ſhall be realized to that amount.

18. It appears that Captain Thornhill paid into the Treaſury at Canton the ſum of pillar dollars 59,600, on account of the opium which he had ſold previous to the capture of the Betſey.

99. We have already informed you, and beg leave to repeat, that the plan of ſupplying the Treaſury at Canton, by the produce of the Company's opium, was not a matter of choice, but neceſſity. We had the produce of the manufacture for two years lying on hand, unſaleable, on account of the dangerous navigation for ſhips of no force in the Streights of Malacca, which were infeſted by the enemy's cruizers. Neither of the modes which were adopted under theſe circumſtances would have been agreed to as a public meaſure, could individuals have been inclined to engage in the Opium Trade—we therefore beg you to view the tranſaction in this light. Part of the opium ſent on the Betſey to Rhio was ſold at 350 dollars per cheſt, and the whole would have ſold well, but by a treacherous connivance of the Chief of Rhio with the Dutch, the former ſuffered the neutrality of this Port to be violated, and the veſſel was attacked and captured, under the cover of his guns, with the remainder of her cargo, which was on board, and which the Chief would not ſuffer to be landed; but on application for permiſſion, promiſed his protection to the veſſel, the more effectually to lull the apprehenſions of the commander, and to cover his deſigns.

100 With reſpect to the conſignment ſent by the Nonſuch to the ſupra cargoes at Canton we have very good information before we diſpatched it, that the nominal prohibition of opium

at China was no impediment to the conſtant and open importation and ſale of it at that place; and the ſupra cargoes never ſtate this as an objection againſt it; although they, after the receipt and ſale of the opium by the Nonſuch, uſed ſuch arguments as occurred to them to enforce their requeſt that we would not repeat the conſignment, if we could poſſibly ſupply them by any other means. As you declare it to be unbecoming, we ſhall underſtand this as a prohibition, and moſt ſtrictly conform to it.

EXTRACT of the General Letter from Canton, dated 19th May 1783.

Par. 6. By the Queen was received here certificates from Bengal, amounting to dollars pts. 106,954. 33. For theſe we have granted bills, agreeably to the engagemets entered into by the Governor General and Supreme Council, on account of opium ſent here, as we acquainted your honours in a former letter.

EXTRACT of the General Letter from Canton, dated 6th December 1783.

Para. 41. The liſt of certificates granted on the Betſey's cargo, not repaid in Bengal, and for which they deſire us to grant bills to the amount of the Northumberland's cargo, or any other aſſiſtance we may firſt receive from them, as mentioned in the former part of this letter, amounts to dollars - - - - - 113,638 013
Which, with intereſt at 8 per cent. - - - - 9,091 041

is dollars 122,729 054

To anſwer which we have the produce of the pepper now delivered, tales 50,970. 580; we have alſo received peculs 2,515. 11 lead, from Captain Geddes, Commander of the Nonſuch, which had been ſent on board as ballaſt, with orders to him to deliver it to the council here, as no mention is made of it in the letter from the Governor General and Council, nor any bill of lading, invoice, or other paper accompanying it, by which we can diſcover whether it is a part of the conſignment originally intended for this place from Europe, or not; we have carried it to account as part of the ſupplies intended to replace the Betſey's cargo; its amount is tales 10,056. 440, which, added to the pepper, makes the account as follows:

Certificates, with 8 per cent dollars — — — 122,729 054
Pepper and lead, tales, 61,027. 020 — — — 84,750 277

Deficiency - 37,978 777

By the terms of the ſubſcription, a proportionate deduction ſhould be made from each certificate, on account of this deficiency, which reverts as a debt on the Bengal Treaſury, payable with an additional intereſt of 8 per cent.; but, on conſidering the trouble and perplexity this ill-fated project had been productive of, as well to the Governor General and Council as to ourſelves, with the loſs of time and diſappointment to the ſubſcribers, and that the deficiency was reduced to ſo ſmall an amount as might eaſily be replaced from Bengal, we determined to grant bills for the whole amount of each certificate, without any deduction, and requeſt the Governor General and Council to ſend us a conſignment of any article moſt convenient, by the firſt opportunity that offered, of equal value; this reſolution we the more readily adopted, as, from the number of certificates yet unpreſented, the ſum we ſhall have occaſion to draw for by theſe ſhips will not amount to the ſupplies received.

43. The

43. The Governor General and Council likewiſe informs us, that ſeveral ſubſcribers to the loan on the Nonſuch having repreſented to them, that their certificates had been loſt on their way to China, and were never preſented: they had granted new certificates, entitling them to an intereſt of 8 per cent. per annum; theſe certificates, we have the pleaſure to obſerve, did notwithſtanding arrive in the Queen, and the bills, to the amount of dollars 106,954. 5, were drawn accordingly, by which a ſaving accrues to the Company of dollars 8,556. 360, which would otherwiſe have been due by the new certificates.

EXTRACT of a Letter from the Supra Cargoes at Canton to the Honourable Court of Directors, dated the 31ſt December 1783.

We encloſe accounts current with the Preſidency of Bengal of the concern per Betſey and Nonſuch; for the amount of the certificates received, with 8 per cent. thereon, we have granted bills amounting to £. ſterling 11,611. 11. 10.

ACCOUNT

ACCOUNT CURRENT.——NONSUCH.

To bills in favour of Col. Watſon - - -	30,134	160	By opium, ſold to Sinqua - - - - -	237,324	705
To charges, demorage, meaſurage, factory expences, &c. &c. -	14,196	138	By balance - - - - -	49,007	722
To bills granted for certificates, December 1782 - -	160,518	730			
To amount of 3 cheſts damaged opium - - -	444	705			
To bills granted for certificates, May 1783 - -	77,007	327			
To bills granted for certificates, December 1783 - -	4,031	367			
Tales - -	286,332	427	Tales - -	286,332	427

Canton, December 26th 1783.

Errors excepted.

JAs. BRADSHAW,
WM. HENRY PIGOU,
ABRM. ROEBUCK,
HENRY BROWNE,
JOHN HARRISON,
ALEXR. BRUCE,
CHARLES EDWD. PIGOU,
HENRY LANE,
THOMAS FREEMAN,
THOMAS KUYCK VAN MIEROP.

To Bills in favour of Cudbert Thornhill - - -	24,658	920	By cash received of Captain Geddes, salvage Betsey's cargo -	42,912	—
To an error in the above bills - - - -	9	037	By pepper per Northumberland - - -	50,970	580
To bills, amount of certificates presented for bills to be granted January 1st 1784, dollars 36,624 $\frac{56}{66}$ - - -	26,369	890	By lead per Nonsuch - - - -	10,060	440
To balance - - - - -	52,905	173			
Tale - - -	103,943	020	Tales - -	103,943	020

Canton, December 26th 1783.

Errors excepted.

JAs. BRADSHAW,
WM. HENRY PIGOU,
ABM. ROEBUCK,
HENRY BROWNE,
JOHN HARRISON,
ALEXR. BRUCE,
CHARLES EDWD. PIGOU,
HENRY LANE,
THOs. FREEMAN,
THOMAS KUYCK VAN MIEROP.

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, the 8th March 1784.

EXTRACT of letter from the Supra Cargoes at Canton, dated 2d December, 1783.

Encloſed we tranſmit you accounts current of the conſignments per Betſey and Nonſuch.

Ordered, That the accounts incloſed in the above be ſent to the Accountant General, and that he be directed to prepare and lay before the Board a ſtatement of the ſums which have been brought to credit for the proceeds of the cargoes laden on Board the Nonſuch and Betſey for China, in the year 1781.

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, the 12th April, 1784.

Read the letter as follows, from the Accountant General, and encloſures.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

In obedience to your orders of the 8th March, by which I was directed to tranſmit you a ſtatement of the ſums which have been brought to the credit of the Company for the proceeds of the cargoes laden on Board the ſhips Nonſuch and Betſey for China, in the year 1781, and in obedience to your ſubſequent order of the 22d ultimo, by which I was directed to furniſh you with "An account of all certificates which were drawn on the ſupra cargoes in China, on ac-"count of the cargoes per Nonſuch and Betſey, and have ſince been redeemed in Calcutta;" I have now the honour to inform you, that it appears that the ſupra cargoes at Canton have given credit for Spaniſh Dollars 59,600, or tales 42,912, on account of the cargo per Betſey, and dollars 329,000, or tales 2,36,880, on account of that per Nonſuch; on account of which ſhip they

Tales. Dec. Parts.

charge, for demorrage and port chagres, 14,196. 138. The references which I had occaſion to make to the Honourable Board's proceedings on this buſineſs, have led to the diſcovery of circumſtances which it is my duty to point out to the Board, that they may be enabled to take ſuch ſteps as to them may ſeem proper. I ſhall firſt premiſe that the account current between this Preſidency and that of Canton, dated 28th December 1782, recorded upon the proceeding of the 28th July 1783, though a paper which materially concerned this office, was never tranſmitted to it; had its contents been notified to the acting Accountant General, he would then have pointed out to you thoſe circumſtances which it is now my duty to ſuggeſt to you.

The ſupra cargoes of Cantondebit this Preſidency for an error in the bills of Exchange drawn

Tales. Dec. Parts.

in favour of Cudbert Thornhill, 90, 37; this firſt ſtruck me as a charge of inaccuracy againſt the office, and therefore led me to inveſtigate by what rule their amount has been aſcertained. My Deputy produced to me the original accompanying copy of an order of your Honourable Board, dated 8th February 1782, as a voucher for the bills which he had granted. On converting the ſums in Spaniſh dollars, for which they were directed to be granted, into ſicca rupees, I found that they had been erroneouſly ſtated, and that bills ought to have been granted as follows:

	Sa Rs	G. Rs Dec.	Sp. Doll.	Dec. Parts.	Tales. D.P.
For the freight of 1,601 cheſts of opium per Nonſuch, at 50 S. Rs per cheſt -	80,050—	92,858—	37,402	9,006—	26,930 093
For the privilege allowed to the Captain and officers of the Nonſuch -	8,000—	9,280—	3,737	9,544—	2,691 327
	88,050—	102,138—	41,140	861—	29,621 42
For the freight of 1,466 cheſts of opium per Betſey, at 50 S. Rs per cheſt -	73,300—	85,028—	34,249	D. P. 0,075	D. P. 24,659 285

D. Parts.

But

But as the bill granted for the firſt of theſe was for Spaniſh dollars 38,048, or tales 27,394. 55, D Parts. there is due from Lieutenant Colonel Watſon, for this error, by which he benefitted Spaniſh dollars 645. 0,934, or tales 464. 467; and as the bill granted for the ſecond of theſe was for Spaniſh D. Parts. D. Par's. D Parts. dollars 3,805, or tales 2,739. 6, there is due from Lieutenant Colonel Watſon, for this error Spaniſh dollars 6,704. 56, or tales 4,827. 3; which together make Spaniſh dollars 712. 139; D. Parts. D. Parts. D. Pa ts. D. Paris. and as it appears that although the third bill was granted for 5,075 of a dollar leſs than it ought to have been granted, the ſupra cargoes having paid, under the idea of an error in that bill, tales 9. D. Paris. D. Par's. 037, there were tales 8. 672 paid more than ought to have been paid for that bill; the inſignificancy of this error almoſt precludes the neceſſity of an application for its amount; but I ſhould imagine that the amount of the others ſhould be charged to Colonel Watſon's account; ſhould the Board be of that opinion, it will be neceſſary to apprize him of their determination.

As the ſupra cargoes at Canton have been furniſhed with regiſters of the particulars of the following ſtatement, I conceive that it is unneceſſary for me to lay them before the Honourable Board.

	D. Parts.	D. Parts.
Certificates granted on account of the ſhip Betſey, as per regiſter, dated 6th February 1782 - -	304,685 903 Cs	7,56,426 —
A certificate granted ditto, as per ditto, 5th March 1782	173,907 —	431 12
Total of certificates granted - Spaniſh dollars	30,485 981 C. Rs	7,56,857 12
The amount of certificates granted to thoſe who ſignified their deſire to receive bills for the ſame, conformable to the advertiſement of 1ſt Auguſt 1782, was as per regiſter, dated 17th March 1783 - - - - -	Spaniſh Dollars. 113,638 013	Crs. 2,82,122 8
Deduct therefrom the amount of a certificate, firſt numbered 59, but afterwards numbered 35, which has ſince been repaid at the Treaſury - - - - -.	173 907	431 12
	113,464 106	2,81,690 12
The amount paid from the Treaſury to 1ſt March 1784, in diſcharge of theſe certificates, was - -	182,526 422	4,53,147 12
The amount then due from the Treaſury, to diſcharge certificates, No. 124, 125, 147, 148, 153, 154, 189, and 190	8,869 282	22,019 4
	304,859 81	7,56,857 12

Permit me to hope, that the Honourable Board will indulge me, by tranſmitting to the ſupra cargoes at Canton, a copy of this letter, that this office may not any longer appear to them to have committed thoſe inaccuracies, which, without the expoſition it contains of their cauſes, muſt appear highly exceptionable to them.

Fort William,
Accountant General Office,
the 5th April 1784.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) WM LARKINS,
Accountant General.

Mr. William Larkins, Accountant General.

Sir,

I obey the orders of the Honourable Governor General and Council, in directing that you prepare the following ſets of bills to be drawn on the ſupra cargoes at Canton.

C. Rs

C. Rs 94,460 1 7 One ſet payable in 30 days after ſight, to Lieutenant Colonel Henry Watſon, or his order, for Spaniſh dollars 38,048, being the amount of freight due to him for 1,600 cheſts of opium laden on board the ſhip Nonſuch.

C. Rs 9,446 8 1 One ſet payable in 30 days after ſight, to ditto his order, for Spaniſh dollars 3,805, being the amount agreed to be allowed by the Governor General and Council to the Captain and officers of the Nonſuch, in lieu of privilege.

C. Rs 85,027 3 11 One ſet, payable in one month after ſight, to Captain Cudbert Thornhill, or his order, for Spaniſh dollars 34,248½, being the amount of freight due to him as owner of the Betſey, and equal to ſicca rupees 73,300, at the exchange of 214 rupees 4 pice for 100 Spaniſh dollars.

Council Chamber,
8th February.

I am, Sir,

Your moſt obedient,

Humble ſervant,

(Signed) E. HAY,

Sub-Secretary.

Atteſted to be a true copy of the original.

(Signed) Wm. Larkins,

Accountant General.

Ordered, That copy of the paragraphs reſpecting Colonel Watſon be tranſmitted to him, with a requiſition to refund the amount of the error in the bills on Canton, granted on account of the freight, &c. of the Nonſuch; viz.

	Spa. Doll.	D. Pars.
viz.	742.	139.

Ordered, That a copy of this letter be ſent to the ſupra cargoes at Canton.

EXTRACT of Bengal General Conſultations, the 14th March 1785.

EXTRACT of Letter from the Supra Cargoes at Canton, to the Governor General and Council, dated 24th November, 1784.

Since our laſt advices, we have granted bills for the remainder of the certificates per Betſey, except N° 29, which has not been preſented; and N° 35, which we obſerve, by your Accountant's letter, has been paid at your Treaſury. We have allowed only an intereſt of 8 per cent. on theſe certificates for one year, as the holders thereof might have ſent them to China laſt ſeaſon by many conveyances which offered; and we did not think it proper that the Company ſhould ſuffer by their inattention.

Agreeable to your deſire, we tranſmit an account of the proceeds [not entered] of the opium ſent us by the Nonſuch in 1782.

EXTRACT

EXTRACT of the Proceedings of the Governor General and Council, in the Secret Inſpection Department, 9th April 1785.

The Governor General.

The contract for providing the opium expires on the 1ſt of next September. It will be found impoſſible in practice, however much it may be wiſhed in theory, to raiſe a revenue from opium by encreaſing the revenue paid by the Ryots, who cultivate the ſoil in which it is produced, or by leaving the opium in free trade. To keep the preparation of the opium perfect and uniform for public ſale, the whole proviſion of it muſt be given, by agency or contract, to ſpecial managers, or to a ſociety of merchants contracting for the whole.

To ſuch a ſociety the contract may be made out for five years, on condition that they ſupply the Company's caſh at China annually, to a certain amount, with the proceeds of the opium.

The opium, after it is manufactured, may be ſold to the different mercantile adventurers of Calcutta, under certain ſtipulations; or, what would be more conſonant to the advantage of this country, and the ſecurity of the current ſpecie, the ſociety ſhould be obliged to export the whole of the opium for ſale, and eſtabliſh an emporium to the eaſtward for that purpoſe. The Dutch Company, who cannot carry on their eaſtern trade without a certain quantity of opium, might be obliged to pay the amount of what they receive in caſh to our Supercargoes at Canton; and it might at the ſame time be ſtipulated with them, that they ſhould guarantee to our Opium Society whatever emporium they fix on to the eaſtward, whether at Tringana, the Sultan of which port has lately made an offer of it to us, by a letter which I have juſt received from him, or at any other place that may be found more ſecure and convenient.

The Compnay's ſhip, Admiral Hughes, might be lent to the Society, as a ſecure floating factory, till a propet emporium is eſtabliſhed.

To prevent the general objections that are always, and indeed juſtly, made to every monopoly of commerce, the Society ſhould be obliged to divide their capital into ſhares, of which a certain number ſhould entitle a proprietor to be a manager. The books of the Society ſhould be kept open to all the proprietors, and for the inſpection of Government, and ſhares ſhould be made transferable like India ſtock at home, or inſurance ſhares here. By this means every merchant might inveſt a part of his property in the opium concern, and the profits upon it would be open to all adventurers.

The goods purchaſed by the Society, in return for their opium, to the eaſtward, might be carried, freight free, by the Company's ſhips to China, and thereby ſave the Society the immoderate expences of ſhipping; and the opium might likewiſe be ſhipped in the Company's ſhips, to be left at the Society's emporium, or floating factory. In a word, the Company ſhould be bound to give the Society every aid and ſupport, and the vigilance of the Society, as well as their deſire of advantage, ſhould be left to their full operation for realizing the proceeds of the opium, and converting the ſame into caſh in China, where it will be neceſſary at all events to give ſpeedy aid to the Company's credit, to ſupport the eſtimate given by the Company to Parliament. The deficiency in that eſtimate will be very conſiderable indeed in March 1786, unleſs the greateſt exertions are made by this Government.

In order to ſecure to the Company the utmoſt advantage from the eaſtern trade, and from the produce of their opium, I take the liberty to propoſe three different plans:

1ſt. That a ſociety of reſponſible merchants reſident in Calcutta form themſelves into a company for the purpoſe of conducting the trade in opium, not more in number as an acting body than twenty-one, or fewer than eleven; that no objection be made to their being in or out of the Company's ſervice, whether European or country born, provided they are Britiſh ſubjects, amenable to the Supreme Court of Judicature, and can furniſh the neceſſary ſecurity to their own body and to the Company. To ſuch Society the Company ſhould make over, for the ſpace of five years, the ſole and excluſive right to the trade in opium, and afford them the ſame kind of ſupport and aſſiſtance in the proviſion of it as is now granted to the preſent Contractor for opium.

That the Society ſhall be obliged to tranſport for ſale abroad the whole amount of the Patna, Benares, and Boglepore opium, or at leaſt three thouſand five hundred cheſts annually; that the Society ſhall oblige themſelves to pay into the Company's Treaſury at China, within one year after the contract ſhall be ſigned, four hundred thouſand Spaniſh dollars, and every year after, during their contract, make an additional payment of eighty thouſand dollars, until the ſum paid in ſhall amount to eight hundred thouſand dollars annually, at the exchange of forty one and a half Spaniſh dollars for one hundred current rupees.

That the Society ſhall make all advances for the manufacturing the opium, and be at every kind of expence whatever, each cheſt to contain one hundred and fifty pounds of neat opium. For each cheſt, when exported, they ſhall give a receipt into the Treaſury for two hundred current rupees, in lieu of all demands from the Company, on account of that particular cheſt of opium, ſo marked and numbered; and in the adjuſtment of the annual accounts between the Company and the Society, the managers of the ſaid Society ſhall receive back ſuch receipts, in part of payment of the money depoſited by their agents in the China Treaſury, on account of the Company.

The Company ſhall bind themſelves to give the Society all legal and reaſonable aſſiſtance in the manufacturing and collecting their opium; and the Society ſhall bind themſelves to make good the payment of the above-mentioned ſums annually at China.

When the Supra Cargoes certificates for money paid in by the Society's Agents at China ſhall be preſented in Bengal, the Society ſhall receive back in payment their own receipts as far as they will go, and the balance ſhall be paid to their order at the Company's Treaſury, ſixty days after ſight, or bear an intereſt of eight per cent. until paid.

All the opium of the ſecond and third ſort, not deemed fit for the export trade, ſhall be entered at ſome one of the Company's or country cuſtom houſes, and a receipt given for the ſum of one hundred rupees duty for each cheſt, in the ſame form and manner as for the export opium, to be redeemed in the ſame manner, by certificates from China; and if ſold for exportation, a certificate to be granted the Society, on their atteſting that it is the opium of the ſecond and third ſort.

The Society ſhould have the advantage of ſending freight free on the Company's ſhips to China any goods which their Agents may have collected at the uſual eaſtern ports, or any particular ſpecified port in the route from Madras to China.

Dr O P I U M. Per Contra. C

Caſh advanced by the ſociety for manufacturing 3,500 cheſts of opium at 215 Ct Rs per cheſt	—		7,52,500	0	0	Sales of 1000 cheſts of opium at Batavia, at 250 Spaniſh dollars per cheſt	2,50,000	0 0
Receipt for duty at 200 Ct rupees per cheſt	—	—	7,00,00	0	0	1,000 cheſts in the ſtraits, Do.	2,50.000	0 0
						1,200 Do. at China Do.	3,00,000	0 0
							8,00,000	0 0
Charges Merchandize.						Deduct charges merchandize, as per Public ſtatement	22,500	0 0
Packing charges, inclusive freight down to Calcutta, and ſhipping off, as public	—	—	19,250	0	0			
One year's expences of tonnage, as per public		—	2,28,000	0	0		7.77,500	0 0
			16,99,750	0	0			
Balance	—		4,83,954	13	1	41½ Sph dollars, pr 100 Ct Rs, is Currt. Rups — —	18,73,493	15 7
						Deduct management and Commiſſion 7½ per cent.	1.40,512	0 9
								17,32,981 14 10½
						300 cheſts of opium for the Weſt coaſt, at 500 Currt rupees each — — —		1,50,000 0 0
						Profits on goods tranſported on the Company's ſhips to China, as per firſt plan — —		1,80,722 14 3
						Suppoſed advantages ariſing from the excluſive right to the home trade in opium, including the preſent Contractors profits per annum — —		1,20,000 0 0
Current Rupees	—		21,83,704	13	1	Current rupees —		21,83,704 13 1½

2d plan.—Should the preceding plan not be approved; and ſhould it be maintained that the opium trade, if it is to be carried on as a monopoly, ought to be conducted as ſuch by the Company's ſervants, to effect an immediate remittance to China; in that event, the Company muſt ſecure to themſelves all the Patna, Benares, and Boglepore opium, which appears on an average for the laſt five years, to amount to three thouſand five hundred cheſts per annum. It ſhould be reſolved not to ſell any part of the opium thus provided by the Company but in the Eaſtern Iſlands; and a proper perſon ſhould be ſent in a public capacity from this Government to that of Batavia, commiſſioned to ſettle a fixed price for the quantity which they would want at Batavia, payable by bills on their ſupra cargoes in China.—When the Dutch opium company at Batavia ſhall know that no private traders could ſmuggle it into their ports, they would engage to take from our Company at leaſt one thouſand cheſts per annum.

From Batavia the agent ſhould proceed to Tringana, and enter into a treaty with the Sultan of that place, to make his port the Emporium for the ſale of opium, the port duties to be fixed, as well as the price of the opium; not one cheſt to be delivered until paid for.

The Company's own ſhip Admiral Hughes would anſwer the purpoſe of a floating factory extremely well, and the pepper, tin, gold duſt, &c. taken in exchange, may be received into the ſhip until the Europe ſhips bound from Madras to China ſhould call there, and tranſport it to the ſupra cargoes at China. At Tringana, the annual vend may be eſtimated at one thouſand cheſts, for the whole of the people of the Eaſtern Iſlands muſt come there for opium, as it would not be to be had elſewhere. The beſt and only good ſecurity which can be had for the Sultan's punctuality and fidelity, will be the power of removing at will the market for the ſale of opium to ſome other place, by ordering away the ſhip. When the rates of duties, port charges, &c. were ſettled with the Sultan, the public agent ſhould go on to Macao and China.

It is well known how fond the Chineſe are of opium, and what riſques they run to come at it, but as the plan is calculated to inſure a ſafe remittance to China by means of the opium, the agent might be entruſted to act in concert with the Company's Supra Cargoes at China in ſettling the contract for the annual quantity of opium to be delivered at Macao to the Portugueſe, or to the Chineſe, ſuch ſecurity being firſt given to the Supra Cargoes as they themſelves would deem ſufficient that the money ſhould be paid into the treaſury.

The demand for China may be eſtimated at 1,200 cheſts per annum; nor is there a doubt, but when the matter ſhall come to be clearly underſtood, very good contractors would be found at Macao, and the conſumption would increaſe without the riſque of diſputes with the Chineſe, or diſappointment in the ſales.

Such are the outlines of a plan for the Company's management of the opium for their own advantage; and from the nature of the commodity, ſuch a concern would, with tolerable management, in a few years become of the greateſt importance to them. The accompanying ſtatement very liberally made, will ſet the matter in a clearer point of view.

Cr.

Per Contra.

Dr. OPIUM.

3,500 cheſts of Patna and Benares opium, delivered at the

Vol.

Dr. OPIUM.			Per Contra.			Cr.
3,500 chests of Patna and Benares opium, delivered at the factories at 215 Ct. Rups. per chest, being the medium of the contract price — Ct. Rs.	7,52,500 — —		SALES of OPIUM, as follows:			
Charges of bringing down, examining, and packing, at Calcutta, at 5 rupees per chest —	17,500 — —		1,000 chests to the Dutch, at 250 Sph. dollars per chest, neat money, being low average of the sales for seven years — —	2,50,000 — —		
Shipping off, including sloop hire, when the ships lay down the river, at eight annas per chest — —	1,750 — —		1,000 Do. at Rhio Tringana, or the part fixed for sale —	2,50,000 — —		
		19,250 — —	1,200 Do. at China, at 250 Spanish dollars per chest — —	3,00,000 — —		
Freight allowed the Company for their ship Admiral Hughes, at 10,000 Curr. Rups, per month, for one year —	1,20,000 — —				8,00,000 — —	
Freight of one smaller ship, to attend the agent, and transport the opium, suppose the Company's ship Swallow, at 5,000 Ct. Rs. per month for one year — —	60,000 — —		3,200 chests.			
Two sloops, or small vessels, to serve as tenders, at 2,000 Curr. Rups. per month each, for one year — —	48,000 — —		CHARGES.			
		2,28,000 — —	Supra cargoes, house expences, and fees of Officers, at Batavia, rated at 1 per cent. —	2,500 — —		
		9,99,750 — —	Port charges at Rhio or Tringana, at 5 per cent. on 250,000 Sph. dollars, per 1,000, chests —	12,500 — —		
Balance in favour of the Company —		10,94,256 — 4½	Port charges at Macao, suppose 2½ per cent. on 300,000 for 1,200 chests	7,500 — —		
					22,500 — —	
			Spanish dollars —	777,500 — —		
			41½ Spanish dollars, per 100 current rupees — — —		18,73,493 15 7½	
			300 chests reserved for the coast of Malabar and Bencoolen, at 500 current rupees per chest — —		1,50,000 — —	
			Estimated profits on the tin, pepper, &c. carried to China on the Company's ships, at 30 per cent. at 250,000 Sph. dollars 75,000, at 41½ per 100 current rupees — —		1,80,722 14 3	
					22,04,216 13 10½	
			Deduct 5 per cent. commission on the whole account of sales, as sufficient for commission, indulgence, &c.		1,10,210 13 6	
Current rupees — —		20,94,006 — 4½	Current rupees — —			20,94,006 — 4½
						20,94,006 — 4½

I shall

I ſhall take the liberty to ſuggeſt a third plan, more ſimple in its operation, but leſs effectual to ſupply China with caſh, nor will it prevent the exportation of ſpecie from Bengal.

It may be reſolved to grant a contract for the opium of next year to either an individual or a number of individuals, offering the moſt advantageous terms, in ſealed propoſals, with proper ſecurity, the Company making the uſual advances for the proviſion of it; and after it is provided of a certain goodneſs, the whole proceeds to be ſold by public ſale at Calcutta, taking obligations from the purchaſers, with the beſt ſecurity that can be got, for the delivery for its value in caſh to the ſupra cargoes at China by a certain time.

Theſe reſpective plans ſhould be immediately ſubmitted to the Company, for their opinion and orders; and I leave it to the Board to determine, what plan we ſhould at preſent take up, till the Company's pleaſure is known. Whatever plan that may be, there muſt be a condition in the engagement, making it revocable or not, according to the Company's orders, whenever theſe may be received.

EXTRACT of Letter from the Governor General and Council, in their Department of Inſpection, dated 29th April 1785.

Par. 1. Since our addreſs to your Honourable Court of the 25th March, in the ſecret department of inſpection, & retrenchments, a copy of which is ſent a number in this packet, our attention has been principally engaged in endeavouring to form arrangements for the permanent ſupport of your trade and credit at Canton; and to eſtabliſh ſuch a ſyſtem, on the ſolid principles of commerce, as would ultimately relieve you from the heavy burthen of your bonded debts at your different Preſidencies in India, retain the current ſpecie in the provinces, and ſecure to the parent ſtate laſting advantages from the trade of Aſia.

2. In conſidering the beſt means of maintaining and improving your trade with the Chineſe, we have ſuppoſed that the meaſures which were lately adopted in England, for the reduction of duties upon tea, will inevitably lead to the encreaſe of your ſales in that branch of commerce, and that you will of courſe deſtine a greater number of your ſhips than uſual to the port of Canton; and it follows, as a natural conſequence, that your credit in China will demand a more enlarged ſupport, nor is there any quarter from which that ſupport can be had more obviouſly than from your Government of Bengal.

3. Your ſupercargoes at Canton have only made to us a general repreſentation of their wants. We underſtand, from private information, that the native merchants of that city are in advance to them in no leſs a ſum than two hundred and nienty thouſand pounds ſterling. It is therefore eſſential for your intereſt that the credit of the Company ſhould be maintained completely in the eſtimation of the Chineſe merchants. A further exportation of ſpecie from theſe provinces can on no account be attempted, nor can any of your other Preſidencies afford to ſend the aid of commercial ſupplies to your factory at Canton; and we have reaſon to apprehend that private remittances, which have hitherto furniſhed a very conſiderable fund for the ſupport of your China trade, have of late been very inſufficient for that purpoſe.

4. Having taken all theſe circumſtances into our particular conſideration, and being ſincerely anxious to enable you to realize your expectations from your commerce with China, and with a view to preventing heavy drafts upon your treaſury in Europe, we have iſſued a publication, and circulated it through all the ſettlements, offering the opium of November next for caſh paid into your treaſury at Canton, to ſupply the cargoes for your China ſhips of the approaching ſeaſon.

5. How far this propoſal, and the encouragement which it holds out, will be productive of the relief intended by them, we cannot yet venture to pronounce; but we are determined, in caſe you ſhall approve the meaſure, to apply the proceeds of the opium manufacture in future to the excluſive benefit of your China trade.

6. We

6. We have the honour to encloſe a copy of a minute which your Governor General has delivered on this ſubject, with copies of the plans encloſed in it, and to recommend them to your particular attention: Our opinions on them will attend you with the next diſpatch.

11. In regard to the opium plan, the objections that will naturally be made to it as a plan of monopoly, are objections which can never be obviated while any conſiderable revenue is deſired to be derived from it. The opium, like the ſalt, muſt be manufactured in theſe provinces on the footing of a monopoly, or the revenue muſt fail. It will be obſerved, that the ſale of the opium might be exempted from the unfavourable checks of a monopoly ſyſtem, and left open to every bidder at the Calcutta market, had we poſſeſſed a port to the eaſtward to which opium ſold by public ſale to the Bengal merchants might be carried, and ſecurely diſpoſed of to the trading inhabitants of the Eaſtern Iſlands. It would certainly be more conſonant to the advantages of an open trade, that the opium, if even manufactured by contract, ſhould be ſold to the higheſt bidder at Calcutta; but the want of ſome ſafe and certain eſtabliſhment to the eaſtward, as an Emporium to the merchants of this place, expoſes every private adventurer in the article of opium to the greateſt riſques, and renders it neceſſary to concentrate a general intereſt, to give as much ſecurity as poſſible to the ſucceſs of our opium ſales in the eaſtern ſeas.

12. The riſque to which private adventures in opium are ſo much expoſed, oblige them to export ſecretly a conſiderable quantity of ſpecie together with their opium, to make good at all events their engagements to pay money in China. This is an evil which we wiſh to obviate in every degree. Indeed we conſider the further exportation of ſpecie from theſe provinces, as public credit now ſtands, in ſo alarming a point of view, that we imagine it would be more for your intereſt to transfer the opium entirely to the Dutch, on the condition of their paying its value in money into your Treaſury at Canton, than to leave it on its preſent uncertain footing.

13. We ſhall endeavour to concert meaſures with the Governor General and Council of Batavia for the ſecurity of the opium trade. In conſidering this ſubject, we are induced to expreſs our wiſh, that it were poſſible to exchange Negapatam for the Fort of Malacca; a ſecure eſtabliſhment in ſo favourable a poſition would give real vigour to our Eaſtern Trade, and throw within the command of Bengal a regular ſupply to your Treaſury at Canton, with every advantage to this Government, while it would procure to the Company a permanent ſuperiority in Europe in the China commerce.

14. The exchange of Negapatam for the Fort of Malacca can be effected only by negociation, and by the authority of his Majeſty's Miniſters. The object is important, and we earneſtly recommend it to your ſerious and immediate conſideration. We think it neceſſary at the ſame time to hint, that if the exchange be not effected ſpeedily, and before the States General are fully informed of conſequences it might have relative to their Eaſtern trade, difficulties would probably increaſe to prevent their acceding to the meaſure. They conſider Negapatam as of much greater importance to them than Malacca; but their poſſeſſion of Negapatam could be of little detriment to our intereſts upon the coaſt, and the Fort and Town of Malacca would be a moſt important acquiſition to Bengal.

EXTRACT of Bengal Revenue Conſultations 11th July 1785.

The following minute of the Governor General having been received on the 4th inſtant, it was circulated to the other Members of the Board, who approving thereof, the advertiſement hereafter entered was prepared agreeable to the Governor General's motion; but, on being ſubmitted to the Board, they diſaproved of, and directed the Third Article to be omitted.

Governor General.

It being neceſſary to determine before the cloſe of the preſent diſpatches what meaſures are to be adopted relative to the opium, the contract for which expires on the 31ſt Auguſt next—I have endeavoured to inform myſelf upon the ſubject.

If there is a merit in the detail which I am now to lay before the Board, it is chiefly due to Mr. Yonge at Patna, a gentleman of real abilities, and of extraordinary knowledge in the Company's revenues. The different plans which we have already tranſmitted to the Company upon

upon the ſubject of the opium muſt have drawn their attention to it, and will render them anxious to know our final reſolution relative to this principal ſupport of their China trade, or rather, what ought to form its moſt valuable ſupply.—The object expected from the opium's being a public revenue, or, in other words, an addition to the revenues of the ſtate. The firſt point to be conſidered, is the manner in which that end ſhall be effected, with the utmoſt poſſible advantage to Government, being at the ſame time beneficial to the country; for no plan that has not theſe two grand conſiderations for its object can be eligible.—I ſhall proceed to conſider the different methods by which it is poſſible to make opium a ſource of productive revenue.

Three Methods occur:

Firſt, An increaſe of the rents of the opium lands:

Secondly, Laying the trade open to all purchaſers, and exacting a heavy duty on its exportation: And,

Laſtly, A monopoly of it at firſt hand from the Ryotts, as at preſent, or under a Company, as propoſed in plan No. ſent to the Company in our diſpatches of the Secret Department.

The firſt mode ſeems to be conformable to the ſentiments and wiſhes of the Court of Directors, who thought proper to diſapprove of the preſent contract, though formed, I believe, upon the ſame principles and terms preciſely as the former contract.

The Honourable Court has obſerved, in their letter of the "That they would "prefer to the advantages of the contract an increaſe of rents from the Zemindars." So liberal an opinion, and which met my own ideas fully, till I examined the ſubject, and received authentic information regarding it. The ſtate of Bahar, the country where by far the greater part of the opium is produced, was not fully attended to by the Company. Their wiſhes were founded upon an erroneous idea, that Bahar conſiſts of a few large Zemindaries, like the greater part of Bengal, and that the Zemindars had entered into engagements for the revenues of the country: But this is ſo far from being the ſtate of Bahar, as I am informed, upon minute inquiry, that there are very few Zemindaries of conſiderable extent in it; by much the greater part of that province conſiſts of ſmall milkiats, or little eſtates, the property of an immenſe number *Puttydars*, or joint proprietors of ſingle villages, as well as of entire Purgunnahs. I underſtand that the various perſons poſſeſſed of Zemindary rights of Bahar cannot amount to leſs than fifty thouſand, and it is within the directs ſo appropriated rather than in the conſiderable Zemindaries, that opium is cultivated. The whole country is farmed out for a ſeries of years, partly to its native Zemindars, and partly to renters; therefore, ſuppoſing the mode ſuggeſted by the Court of Directors practicable, it could not be immediately carried into effect, without the aſſent of the Zemindars and renters to an alteration on the terms of their leaſes; it is not likely that theſe would agree to ſuch a meaſure; becauſe they could only be induced to it by the hope of gain, which it holds out no proſpect of: For, to obtain a revenue from the opium lands equal to the mean profit ariſing to Government for the laſt five years, from the preſent mode of conducting the buſineſs, it would be neceſſary to increaſe the rents of theſe lands at leaſt fourfold. The lands of the country are not cultivated by the Zemindar or farmer, but by the common Ryots, who have a certain property in the crop, which is paid for either in money or kind, agreeably to the rate of the pottah, or leaſe, and uſages of each purgunnah; and theſe rates and uſages are all underſtood by the Ryots; they are jealous of their eſtabliſhed rights, and ſuſpicious of every innovation. It is from the Ryots that the revenue is realized, whether it be collected by a Zemindar or renter; the latter could only be induced to give an increaſe for the opium lands from a certainty that the Ryots would agree to: The averſion of the Ryots to innovations tending to increaſe their payments would, I underſtand, prove an inſuperable obſtacle to that mode of increaſing the revenue; but ſuppoſing that this ſhould not be the caſe, it is not from ſpeculation, but a certainty of advantage, that the huſbandman in any country cultivates the ſoil; but what proſpect could the Ryot have of ever diſpoſing of his opium for a ſum that ſhould enable him to pay to a Zemindar or renter ſo conſiderable an increaſe on his pottah, and indemnify him alſo for his labour? To do this, he muſt ſell it for many times more than it was ever ſold for in his country, which he could not entertain the moſt diſtant hope of; beſides, the rents are collected from the Ryots monthly, and not when the produce is brought to market; ſo that by this mode a Ryot would be utterly undone before a ſingle ounce of opium would be produced; and thus, having nothing but diſtreſs before him from cultivating the poppy, he

he would give it up altogether, and turn his induſtry to the raiſing of more profitable articles, the opium trade would be in the courſe of time totally annihilated.

It is alſo proper to remark that a conſiderable part of the opium is produced in the jaghires and other lands which pay no rent to Government; ſo that were the plan practicable within the Company's lands, it would after all be but partially beneficial to them.

Let us now conſider the ſecond poſition, namely, that of laying the trade open to all purchaſers, and levying a duty upon the exportation of opium equal to the preſent profit ariſing upon it.

This mode has not indeed ſo many objections againſt it as the former, nevertheleſs there are ſome very weighty ones.

It is a received maxim in finance, that the more you increaſe the duty upon a commodity, the more you add to the temptation to ſmuggle. Hence it has been lately reſolved in England to change the mode of collecting the duty upon ſome articles of conſumption; and inſtead of levying it upon the importer, it is now collected on the conſumer. In this country the practice of ſmuggling is much more eaſily carried on than at home; nor could the evil of ſmuggling the opium be corrected by a tax on the conſumer, for it is an article of exportation, and the conſumers are the Malays and Chineſe.

If the trade was to be thrown open, every adventurer would be preparing it in a different manner; and if he did not adulterate it himſelf, he would be liable to be impoſed upon by every man from whom he purchaſed it; a knowledge of the quality of the opium, eſpecially in its crude ſtate, is to be acquired only by experience. Thus where the quality woud be various, and liable to every ſpecies of debaſement, the commodity would of courſe loſe its reputation at foreign markets, which would leſſen the demand for it; the quantity exported would be of courſe diminiſhed, and ultimately cauſe a decreaſe in the amount of the duty or revenue on it.

Having fully examined the two former modes, the laſt is to explained, viz. a monopoly of the firſt purchaſe of the opium from the Ryots, as is now practiſed.—I entertain my ſhare of the general prejudices which prevail at home againſt every ſyſtem that bears appearance of monopoly: Much has been ſaid againſt the monopoly of opium; nor does the immediate apparent gain upon it as a monopoly appear of magnitude enough as an inducement to perſiſt in it; but the value of the commodity to theſe provinces is a different conſidration; and I very much believe that it never was, and never can be ſecured to this country, on any footing but that of a monopoly of ſome kind or other, ſuch are the diſpoſitions and habits of the natives, and the peculiar cuſtoms of the country.

It is a miſtake to imagine that monopolies were not practiſed under the old country Governments: They always did exiſt in various degrees. It is well known, that the ſalt collaries of Bengal were actually farmed out to a few ſubſtantial merchants, who on agreeing for the rents, and to pay a certain duty at the cuſtom houſes, had the entire ſalt trade in their own hands; and the whole of the opium and ſalt petre of Bahar was held for many years by a merchant named Foker ul Toojar, who had the excluſive privilege of ſupplying the different European Companies with thoſe articles, for which he paid an annual peſhcuſh, or rent to Government.

Monopolies were of the earlieſt date in this country, and a principal means of raiſing the revenue, long before it came into the Company's poſſeſſion. It was upon the principle of monopolies that foreign Companies were firſt admitted in theſe provinces, and protected in particular branches of trade. The farming of the revenue to particular Zemindars and Renters was a part of this ſyſtem; and I fear that it will be found in the end, that it is only by ſome ſpecies of monopoly that the opium can be made any certain ſource of productive revenue. If this doctrine is admitted and followed, Government muſt reſerve to themſelves the firſt purchaſe of the opium from the Ryots, and then manufacture it on the footing of a contract or agency, in its own hands. The former method has been followed for theſe thirteen years paſt, and with evident ſucceſs: The improvement of the quality of the commodity is eſtabliſhed by the ready ſale it always meets with; the price has progreſſively riſen at the Company's ſales from year to year, while the quantity has almoſt doubled; an evident proof that it is either become an article of more general conſumption than formerly, or that new markets have been opened for it.

An opinion has prevailed, that the cultivation of the poppy is oppreſſive to the Ryot, who would rather cultivate any other article. I have endeavoured to aſcertain the truth of this opinion, and I find it is ill-founded. Every Ryot is glad to grow opium, becauſe a degree of protection is derived from it againſt undue and unauthorized exactions but too frequently made on them in the rents of their other lands. It is the intereſt of the opium contractor or agent to ſupport the Ryot, and repreſent their grievances, which muſt excite the jealouſy of the collectors of revenue. The Ryot who cultivates opium does not apply himſelf to that article alone, perhaps for one begah, or third of an acre of opium, he ſows ten with other articles.—Originally, indeed, it was the peculiar occupation of a particular caſt of people called Quiries; but ſo beneficial has it been found of late, that even Rajepoots and Bramins now apply themſelves to it, which may be conſidered as the principal cauſe of the great increaſe of the quantity. The whole quantity of land ſown with the poppy is, after all, but inconſiderable. For the laſt four years it has not exceeded forty thouſand begahs, the rent of which varies from four to ten rupees a begah, according to the quality of the ſoil, to which the produce bears a proportion. The ſame lands uſually produce another harveſt of grain during the rains, for which no additional rent is paid. One Purgunnah has been mentioned to me as an example to ſhew how far the cultivation of the poppy can be ſuppoſed beneficial or oppreſſive to the Ryot. The following is given to me as an exact detail:

In Purgunnah Foolwarry and Bahar, the firſt year of the preſent opium contract, 1,895 begahs (or thirds of an acre) were cultivated, the produce was 324 maunds, of 80 Sicca weigh, for which the Contractor paid 29,297. 8 rupees. The ſecond year, 1,856 begahs, the produce was 379 maunds, which coſt rupees, 37,183. 15. The laſt year the quantity of land cultivated was 1,827 begahs, which produced maunds 352, for which 34,131. 8. were paid. The whole Purgunnah is computed to contain 30,000 ſquare begahs of land, very little of which is uncultivated. The revenue paid to Government for the ſame period has been about 34.000 rupees at a medium; and it will appear from a ſtatement, that the Ryots receive, for the article of opium alone, a ſum of money equal almoſt to the whole revenue of the Purgunnah.

If the Board are of opinion the Company ought to reſerve the cultivation of the poppy, and the preparing the opium, in their own hands, for the purpoſe of realizing a public revenue, there are but two modes of conducting the buſineſs—an agency, or a contract; which ever mode is adopted, it ought to continue under our management for more than one year. This is eſſentially neceſſary, in order to give the managers weight and conſequence in the country, and to ſecure the confidence of the Ryots, on which the ſucceſs of the buſineſs moſt materially depends. If a contract is preferred, it ought to be for a term of not leſs than four years; for as the competition to obtain it will probably cauſe the proprietors to be very low and favourable to the Company, ſo it would not be worth while for any man of ſubſtance, or a company of merchants, to undertake it for a ſingle year.

An agency, if ably conducted, and with ſcrupulous juſtice to the Ryots, would for various reaſons be eligible; and eſpecially as it might only be carried on till we hear the final opinion of the Company; ſtill it would, to whomſoever granted, be ſtated to be a grant of favour and patronage, and create diſcontent among thoſe whoſe allowances are reduced.

I therefore move the Board, that a public advertiſement be iſſued, offering the Opium Contract to the perſon who ſhall propoſe terms the moſt advantageous for the Company, in ſealed propoſals. The Contract ſhould be granted for four years, ſubject to the revocation of the Company, if diſapproved of by them.

The advertiſement ſhould be publiſhed immediately, with the particular conditions of the late contract; and the 15th of Auguſt next fixed as the laſt day for receiving ſealed propoſals for the new Contract.

The Court of Directors may poſſibly approve of the plan ſuggeſted to them, of an Opium Company, for paying a certain annual amount of caſh into the hands of the ſupra cargoes in China, without exporting the ſpecie of theſe provinces. It will therefore be abſolutely neceſſary to leave an optional clauſe in any new Opium Contract, for the operation of ſuch a plan, in caſe the Company may approve of it, and be able to obtain an emporium to the eaſtward.

The

The Honourable the Court of Directors for the affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the Eaſt Indies, at their Houſe in Leadenhall Street, London.

Honourable Sirs,

On peruſing the late papers from England, on India affairs, I was concerned to meet with one which nearly affected me, and which I hope will apologize for the trouble I am about to give you.

This, Gentlemen, is a pamphlet from Major John Scott, to the Right Honourable Edmund Burke, in reply to the inſinuations, and palpable miſrepreſentations, in a pamphlet, intituled, "The Ninth Report from the Select Committee," &c.

Major Scott hath ſo often pledged his honour to produce proofs for whatever he ſhall aſſert, that I have no doubt of the authenticity of the following paragraph, inſerted in his ſecond letter, dated London, 9th July 1783, page 26, from the ſupra cargoes at Canton, to the Honourable the Court of Directors, noted with inverted commas, as follows:—

The Nonſuch armed ſhip, with 1,601 cheſts of opium on board, arrived ſafe at Canton, and the Supra Cargoes diſpoſed of the opium without incurring any of thoſe penalties which you foretold. They write upon the ſubject to the Court of Directors as follows:—"The object of the "Governor General and Council was to raiſe a ſum of money to anſwer the exigencies of the "Company's affairs in that part of India, and at the ſame time afford us a ſupply for providing "the inveſtment for the preſent year. Had opium not been imported in Portugueſe ſhips, and "had the Captain obeyed his orders, we have not the leaſt doubt but it might have been ſold to "a conſiderable advantage."

"The total loſs to the Company, after payment of every charge in conſequence of the Captain's "diſobeying his orders, was 69,973 dollars." For this loſs, Sir, the Supreme Council are not accountable. But even as the voyage has turned out, it enables the Supra Cargoes to load the ſhips of the preſent year, as they actually ſold the opium for above eighty pounds ſterling; and there was no other poſſible mode could have been deviſed for ſupplying them with a tythe of that ſum.

I beg leave, Gentlemen, to obſerve, that although my name is not inſerted in this pamphlet, it is well known to all my friends, and many others in England, as well as all India, that I was the commander of the Nonſuch at that time, and of courſe this charge, of the Captain's not obeying his orders, criminates me in the eyes of all Europe; and, were it to be paſſed unnoticed (ſince it hath come to my knowledge) muſt be conſtrued into guilt.

I ſhall therefore, ſo far as relates to the above paragraph, animadvert thereon, and endeavour to convince you, Gentlemen, and the whole world, that the failure of the ſales of the Company's opium was not owing to the Captain's diſobedience of orders, but from a different cauſe, which no doubt will be diſcovered, and the truth come at, ſhould you, Gentlemen, think proper to inveſtigate the matter.

It is far from my intention to arraign the conduct of the Supra Cargoes in the diſpoſal of the Company's opium, they ought to be the beſt judges of their own conduct; but in order to vindicate and free myſelf from the aſperſion they have been pleaſed to ſet forth againſt me, I muſt here remark, that I was in no ways concerned, directly or indirectly, but attended ſolely to the concerns of my owner's opium, which I effected at 340 Spaniſh dollars per cheſt, the current price of the ſeaſon; and this I think may ſerve to prove, that ſo far from having prejudiced the Company by any act, omiſſion, or intermiſſion, I was not even conſulted in their meaſures, elſe the reſult muſt have been juſt the reverſe of what the Supra Cargoes ſo maliciouſly inſinuate.

I ſhall now return to that part of their letter wherein they ſay, "Had opium not been im-"ported in Portugueſe," &c. Do thoſe Gentlemen (who have reſided ſo long at Canton and Macao) not know that the ſole returns of the Portugueſe Macao ſhips from Bengal is in that article,

article, with ſometimes a little ſaltpetre or rice for ballaſt; and that the Company's latter ſales of opium at Calcutta are often poſtponed till their arrival, on that very account? they ſurely are not ſo ignorant, and only make uſe of this argument as a veil for their own extraordinary ſales as though it was a new branch of trade ſprung up.—But to invalidate that, let it be remembered, the Nonſuch arrived at Macao the 21ſt July, long before any Portugueſe ſhips (who are ſaid to have imported) ſo that the ſole commerce of that article was then in their own hands.

" And had the Captain obeyed his orders, we have not the leaſt doubt but it might have been " ſold to a conſiderable advantage.

" The total loſs to the Company, after payments of every charge, in conſequence of the Captain's diſobeying his orders, was 69,973 Spaniſh dollars."

This, Gentlemen, I muſt inſiſt on knowing. in what point have I in the leaſt diſobeyed orders? for till I read the ſaid pamphlet I was utterly a ſtranger to ſuch charge, either officially or privately.

The Supra Cargoes appear very ſolicitous to clear themſelves of all miſconduct in this buſineſs; and to prevent ſuſpicion falling on them, religiouſly throw the load on the ſhoulders of another. But permit me to aſk them, doth not this over-ſolicitude imply a conſciouſneſs of guilt? I will now place the ſales of the Company's opium in a different point of view.

STATEMENT of Sales of Opium, at the price obtained by me, on account of my Owner.

1,601 cheſts opium, at dollars 340 per cheſt - - -			544,340
Deduct preſents to the Mandarins, at 10 Ds per cheſt -			16,010
			528,330
Deduct commiſſion 2½ per cent. - - -			13,208
			515,122

STATEMENT of Sales, at the price accounted by the Supra Cargoes.

1601 cheſts opium, at dollars 210 per cheſt - -			336,210
Deduct commiſſion, 5 per cent. - - -			16,810
			319,400

Thus there appears a difference in favour of the Company, Ds 195,722; inſtead of dollars 69,973, which they ſay the Company loſt on the ſpeculation.

Muſt it not appear ſtrange, that I ſhould remain at China upwards of five months without the leaſt miſdemeanor preferred againſt me; nor do I know that I ever offended, unleſs it was in too often ſoliciting my diſcharge, as the ſhip was laying at a very heavy demurage to the Company, of 110 Spaniſh dollars per day, and a great diſappointment to myſelf and owner? And though I have frequented China ever ſince, not a word of this aſperſion hath ever tranſpired, nor, in all probability, ſhould I ever have known it, but through the aforeſaid pamphlet, which ſtill leaves me in the dark, as to what orders I have diſobeyed.

If they ſhould allude to my orders from the Governor General at Bengal, I beg to inform that they were very ſhort, and as follows:

That the Nonſuch, having taken on board 1,601 cheſts Patna opium on account of the Honourable Company, to be delivered to the ſupra cargoes at Canton, was to proceed with it to China, obſerving

obſerving the inſtructions of my owner, Lieutenant Colonel Henry Watſon; which inſtructions I implicitly obeyed, and have every reaſon to believe, to his ſatisfaction. On my return Mr. Haſtings was likewiſe pleaſed to compliment me on making ſo extraordinary a paſſage, avoiding the enemies, and on the good order of my ſhip, which was then intended to carry General Coote to Madras; ſo that I cannot think I offended, or diſobeyed any of his orders. And I dare the whole commiſſion of ſupra cargoes to challenge me with diſobedience, or even neglect, of any orders I received from them.

Mr. Bradſhaw, the then Chief Supra Cargo, is now in England, as is Mr. Harriſon; I therefore hope you will do me that juſtice to demand of them where, and in what, I have been guilty.

If they found me ſo, why not charge me with it publickly?—No!—Aſſaſſination they rather choſe; to ſtab me in the dark, to cover their own (not to call it by a harſher name) miſconduct.

My feelings (from the wound ſo inſidiouſly aimed at my reputation) have led me to inſiſt ſo long on this diſagreeable ſubject.

I have been in India theſe twenty-two years; am generally known at all the Preſidencies and factories under the Company's juriſdiction; and till now my character has been unimpeached, either overtly, or by implication. And ſo far from a wiſh to prejudice the Company's affairs, ever gloried in their ſucceſs; and in that very voyage was happy in the opportunity of affording (from my ſhip's ſtores) a very ample ſupply of gunpowder to the Preſidency of Bencoolen, after the unfortunate exploſion of their magazine, and at a time when the enemy was daily expected on the coaſt, for which I received the thanks of their Board in the politeſt terms.

I muſt therefore requeſt your Honours will be pleaſed to make known in as public a manner as Major Scott hath done, that your ſervants, the ſupra cargoes in China, are called upon to make good their charge againſt me, and that your Honourable Court will pleaſe to inveſtigate the ſame—elſe I am determined to take ſuch meaſures as will beſt vindicate my own reputation, abſtracted from every concern about their character or intereſt.

Bombay,
8th May, 1786.

I am, with the utmoſt reſpect,

Honourable Sirs,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

(Signed) WILLIAM RICHARDSON.

A true copy.

W. Bruere, Secretary.

COPY Paragraphs propoſed by the Court of Directors to be ſent to Bengal as approved by the Board of Commiſſioners.

202. Thus far we have conſidered opium as an article of *Internal Revenue*. We ſhall now view it as an article of *Foreign Commerce*; and we know not how it can be ſo beneficially applied as in the aid of our China trade. In reply therefore to the 5th paragraph of your letter in the Secret Department of Inſpection, of the 29th April 1785, you have our full permiſſion to apply the proceeds of the opium manufactory, with the exception hereafter mentioned, to the excluſive benefit of that trade. The moſt eligible mode of doing this, is the only point remaining for conſideration.

203. We have very attentively peruſed all your proceedings upon this ſubject ſince 1782; and various are the methods which have been ſuggeſted for that purpoſe. With reſpect to the quantity of opium manufactured, we do not find that in any one year it ever exceeded 4,000 cheſts. Sir John Macpherſon, in his minute upon this ſubject of the 9th April 1785, ſtates the annual produce, upon an average of 5 years, at no more than 3,500 cheſts, and he ſuppoſes that the

Dutch at Batavia would annually take off 1,000 chefts, that 1,000 may be annually diſpoſed of at Tringana, and that a vend for 1,200 more would be found at Macao and China.

204. With reſpect to the probable conſumption of this article in China, Colonel Watſon, in his propoſal entered on your General Conſultations of the 16th November 1785, ſtates it as an undoubted fact, that the inhabitants of the ſouthern Provinces are in the increaſing habit of uſing opium, and that they require a ſupply of 1,500 or 2,000 chefts annually. On the other hand, one of the Supra Cargoes, Mr. Peach, in his letter to your Board of the 4th July preceding, ſays, that the ſale of that commodity in China is uncertain.

205. Having already given our opinion, that this article is undoubtedly a proper object of encouragement for foreign commerce; and remaining of opinion contained in our letter to you of the 12th July 1782, that the Company cannot on any account engage directly in an illicit traffick in it to China, where it is prohibited; it remains to be conſidered in what manner, conſiſtent with thoſe opinions, this produce of our Provinces can be moſt beneficially converted to the purpoſes of foreign commerce, and particularly of a ſupply to our Treaſury at Canton.

206. Of the three modes propoſed by Sir John Macpherſon, in his minute of the 9th April 1785, for the future diſpoſal of opium, viz. 1ſt. by a ſociety of merchants; 2dly. under the management of our own ſervants on the Company's account; and 3dly. to be diſpoſed of at public ſale; we have endeavoured to form an opinion. The ſpecific advantages of the firſt, which has for its object the annual payment, in an increaſing proportion of from 400,000 to 800,000 Spaniſh dollars into the Treaſury at Canton, appears at firſt ſight to be very flattering: But from the propoſals which were afterwards made to you, in conſequence of your own advertiſements, we doubt whether, as to the rate of exchange of Spaniſh dollars 41 ½ (forty-one and a half) for 100 current rupees, the ſame would be altogether practicable, the propoſals being in general at 40, and you yourſelves having acquieſced in Spaniſh dollars 41 per 100 current rupees (forty-one per one hundred).

207. The quantity propoſed to be annually exported is at leaſt 3,500 cheſts. If no better terms could be obtained, we ſhould feel great ſatisfaction at parting with the ſame at the medium price of current rupees 477. 6 per cheſt, to be paid for at Canton at the uſual rate of Spaniſh dollars 41 per 100 current rupees, which would furniſh a moſt ſeaſonable ſupply to our China Treaſury, of Spaniſh dollars 685,033 (ſix hundred and eighty five thouſand and thirty-three) without any riſk to the Company.

208. The ſecond propoſal is liable to the objection already ſtated, as it engages the Company in an illicit trade with the inhabitants of China, which on no account would we wiſh to be concerned in. Were we once poſſeſſed of a firm eſtabliſhment to the eaſtward, there would be little doubt of the ſucceſs of the undertaking: We might there meet with a market for the whole produce of our opium farms, to be paid for in dollars, or in tin and pepper, and ſuch other articles as might be very profitably diſpoſed of at Canton. And whatever opium might be in demand by the Chineſe, the quantity would readily find its way thither, without the Company being expoſed to the diſgrace of engaging in an illicit commerce.

209. We obſerve, by a letter from Bencoolen, entered on your General Conſultations of the 2d June 1784, that great advantages might be derived to the Company, by making Fort Marlborough a mart for the ſale of opium to the Mallays. It is therein aſſerted, that before the capture of the Betſey, it ſold at 1.300 rix dollars per cheſt, and that, under proper reſtrictions, 1500 might at leaſt be got for it; we therefore direct that from one to two hundred cheſts be annually ſent to Bencoolen on the Company's account, the proceeds of which to be appropriated to the proviſion of pepper.

210. The 3d propoſal appears to us more conſiſtent with the general freedom of commerce than the other two; and if, as we have already obſerved, you can enſure to us the annual amount before mentioned, to be paid into the Canton Treaſury, we ſhould not heſitate to direct you to continue the ſale of the opium in that manner.

211. Having thus given you our general ideas upon this ſubject, and having acquieſced in the principle, that the proceeds, except in the inſtance before mentioned, ſhould be applied excluſively to the benefit of the China trade, we hereby give you a latitude to adopt ſuch a plan as in your

your eſtimation will beſt anſwer that deſirable purpoſe, and, at the ſame time, be the moſt advantageous to the Company in other reſpects. You are to obſerve, however, that till final arrangements upon this and other ſubjects are made with foreign nations, it would not be adviſeable to withhold from them the indulgence they have had in the receipt of a certain proportion of this article; but we ſhould be glad to know how far, and with what ſucceſs, you have urged the idea of the Dutch paying to our Supra Cargoes at Canton the price of the opium they ſhould receive.

212. We cannot conclude this ſubject without expreſſing our approbation of your conduct in the ſeveral ſteps you have taken for putting the opium trade upon a beneficial footing for the Company, and towards ſupplying our Supra Cargoes with ſpecie, excluſive of your annual remittance, without draining the provinces: And we are pleaſed to find, by your letter of the 31ſt December 1785, that you have been ſo far ſucceſsful as to engage for the payment at Canton, in dollars, for the value of opium delivered, to the amount of 8½ lacks of current rupees. The ſame anxious deſire of affording aſſiſtance to this valuable branch of our commerce, we perſuade ourſelves you will continue to manifeſt, not only in the article of opium, but in every other commodity that may be beneficial, either mediately or immediately, to that commerce.

PROCEEDINGS of the Governor General and Council of Bengal, relative to the Contract entered into with Meſſrs. Young and Heatley, for the Proviſion of Opium.

INFORMATION ſubmitted to the Honourable Houſe of Commons, in obedience to their Order, dated Veneris 2° die Martii, 1787, requiring to be laid before the Houſe,

"Copy or Duplicate of a Contract entered into by the Governor General and Council of "Bengal, with Mr. Patrick Healty and Mr. Young, for the Proviſion of Opium, or of any "other Contract entered into for that Purpoſe, ſubſequent to the Expiration of the Contract "held by Stephen Sulivan, Eſquire."

THE proceedings of the Governor General and Council, in their Revenue Department, have not been received at the India Houſe of a later date than the 23d February 1786, at which period it does not appear that the contract agreed to be entered into with Meſſrs. Young and Heatley, for the proviſion of opium, had been finally executed, or that any other contract had been entered into for that purpoſe, ſubſequent to the expiration of that held by Mr. Sulivan. The accompanying papers are copies of ſuch proceedings as had been held at the above period, ſo far as reſpects the concluding of the contract with Meſſrs. Young and Heatley.

SAM. JOHNSON,
Exr of Indian Correſpondence.

East India Houſe,
5th March 1787.

EXTRACT of Bengal Revenue Conſultation, the 11th July 1785.

This is to give notice, that as the preſent contract with the Honourable Company for the proviſion of opium in the Provinces of Bengal and Bahar will expire on the 31ſt Auguſt next, the

the Honourable the Governor General and Council will receive ſealed propoſals, to be delivered to the Secretary to the Revenue Department on or before the 15th Auguſt next, for a new contract, which will be granted to the perſon or perſons who ſhall offer terms the moſt advantageous for the Company, for all the opium manufacture in the provinces. The term of the contract to be for four years; ſubject however to the Company's revocation of it, ſhould it be diſapproved of by them, or in caſe their orders be received for putting the future proviſion of opium on any other footing than the mode of the propoſed contract; in either of which caſes the Honourable Board ſhall be at liberty to diſcontinue and annul the engagements now propoſed to be entered into, from the end of the year or ſeaſon in which ſuch orders may be received.

For the more particular information of all ſuch perſons as may be inclined to tender propoſals for the propoſed contract, they are hereby informed, that the period of the expiring one was for four years, and its principal conditions were as follows:

1ſt. The Contractor to receive of the Company half the contract price in advance, together with ſuch further advances within the reſidue of the ſaid price, as may be required to enable the Contractor to proceed to the performance of his engagements.

2. The Contractor to pay to the Company the ſum of 10,000 ſicca rupees, in conſideration of their protecting him in the excluſive privileges of his contract.

The Contractor to provide and deliver annually to the Company the quantity of 3,660 maunds, or 1,830 cheſts, of Bahar opium, for which he was to be paid at the rate of 95 ſicca rupees per maund, beſides a premium of 50 rupees for every cheſt, or two maunds of opium that he could provide, over and above the ſaid ſtipulated quantity; and a gratification of 2½ per cent. on the net proceeds of all the Bahar opium, at the medium of the Company's ſales thereof in Calcutta.

4th. The Contractor to provide and deliver annually to the Company the quantity of 2,000 maunds, or 1,000 cheſts, of Bengal opium, for which he was to be paid at the rate of 120 ſicca rupees per maund, together with 12 per cent. as a gratification or premium on the amount of the advances made for the proviſion of whatever ſurplus quantity he can provide.

5th. The opium provided to be of the beſt ſort, and at leaſt equal to the quality of the beſt opium of the Dutch Eaſt India Company.

6. The opium to be delivered by the Contractor at the Khalſa in Calcutta, the Contractor being allowed at the rate of 10 current rupees per cheſt for its tranſportation.

7. The opium to be collected in its crude ſtate, and well and ſufficiently manufactured, under the ſuperintendance, controul, and direction of ſuch perſons as the Governor General and Council ſhall from time to time appoint.

8. The Contractor to pay to the Company the ſum of 300 ſicca rupees as a penalty of every cheſt ſhort of the ſtipulated amount of the Bahar opium that he may prove deficient in the delivery of.

9. The Contractor to deliver all the opium which he may or can provide to the Company or their agents, and to pay a penalty of ſicca rupees 750 for every cheſt that he may ſell, barter, or otherwiſe diſpoſe of, to any other perſon or perſons whomſoever.

10. The Contractor to pay the uſual duties upon all and every part of ſuch opium as may happen to be imported by him into the Provinces of Bengal and Bahar from Guzzepore, the diſtricts of the Rajah of Benaras, or the Province of Oude.

Ordered, that it be publiſhed in the Engliſh, Perſian, and Bengal languages, at Calcutta, Patna, Boglepore, and Purnea.

EXTRACT

EXTRACT of Bengal Revenue Conſultations, 19th Auguſt 1785.

To William Webber, Eſquire, Secretary to the Revenue Department, Fort William.

Sir,

Encloſed I have the pleaſure to forward propoſals for the opium contract, in the names of Patrick Heatley and William Young.

I am, Sir,

23 Auguſt 1785. Yours, &c.

(Signed) P. HEATLY.

PROPOSALS of William Young and Patrick Heatly for the Opium Contract.

1. We engage to provide, on account of the Honourable Company, 3,200 cheſts, or 6,400 maunds, of opium from the Province of Bahar, equal in quality to that ſupplied by the preſent Contractor, or formerly provided by the Dutch Company, and to deliver the ſame manufactured for years, at the rate of ſicca rupees 62. 8 per maund, or ſicca rupees 125 per cheſt.

2. We engage to deliver, account the Province of Bengal, 790 cheſts, or 1,580 maunds, of opium, at the rate of ſicca rupees 100 per maund, or 200 ſicca rupees per cheſt.

By the terms of former contracts, inſpectors were to be appointed to ſuperintend the manufacture; but experience having ſhewn that it was productive of inconvenience to the buſineſs, and the cauſe of frequent reference to Calcutta, it was judged expedient to aboliſh them; and the increaſe of price at the ſales of the opium manufactured by the preſent Contractor, without ſuch controul, proves them to be uſeleſs; ſhould the Honourable Board, however, deem them indiſpenſable, we acquieſce, but at the ſame time we beg leave to offer an alternative, which we hope will be found more effectual towards preſerving the good quality of the opium to be delivered;

3d. We therefore engage to forfeit to the Honourable Company double the contract value of every cheſt that ſhall be found on delivery bad and unmerchantable, taking ſuch opium on our private account.

4. We muſt receive one half of the price of the quantity of opium, above ſtipulated for, on the commencement of each year of the contract, at the ſeveral places where ſuch opium is produced; and the remainder in the courſe of each ſeaſon, as we may want it, agreeable to the indulgence granted to the preſent and late Contractor, on receiving an allowance of ten current rupees per cheſt.

5. We engage to deliver the opium in Calcutta free of every other charges whatever to the Company.

Wiſhing to give every poſſible aſſurance for the good quality of the opium to be delivered, by making it our own intereſt to deliver none but the very beſt;

6. We requeſt we may be allowed the ſame commiſſion on the ſales in Calcutta as was allowed to the late and preſent Contractors, of 2½ per cent.

The opium being moſtly produced in diſtricts where ſonnauts only are current;

7. We requeſt we may receive our advances in that ſpecie, when we want them, as was granted to the late Contractor.

If in the courſe of any particular ſeaſon we ſhould be able to deliver any further quantity of opium, beyond the expreſs quantity contracted for;

8. We requeſt we may receive for the ſame fifty ſicca rupees per cheſt, over and above the contract price, of ſicca rupees 125 per cheſt.

9. We requeſt we may receive, on our application, ſuch further advances for the ſurplus quantity as the occaſion may require.

Should it be judged neceſſary, towards rendering the engagements between us and the Company legally valid, to pay a conſideration for the excluſive privilege; in that caſe,

10. We engage to pay into the Treaſury ten thouſand ſicca rupees per annum for the ſame.

11. We requeſt we may receive the ſame ſupport in the excluſive privilege of providing opium, as has hitherto been given to the preſent and all former Contractors, by continuing all former orders and regulations of that head in full force; and that all perſons concerned in the clandeſtine purchaſe or ſale of opium within the Provinces, in defiance of the orders of Government, be puniſhed, on conviction, at the diſcretion of the magiſtrate.

The opium being an article of finance, not of commerce, and as much one of the reſources of the State as the ſalt, landed collections, cuſtoms, or any other branch of public revenue; and it having been conſidered as ſuch during the Mogul Government, which farmed out the excluſive privilege for an annual Peſhcuſh;

12th. We ſubmit it, as a matter deſerving the ſerious conſideration of the Board, whether it would not be proper to come to ſome public declaration or reſolution expreſſive of the ſame, in order to prevent the interference of the Supreme Court, by taking cognizance of litigious complaints, which might prove detrimental to the buſineſs, as the former interference of that Court is known to have been to the landed collections, inſtances of which have occurred during the time of the late and preſent contract; and the Supreme Court laſt year, in a cauſe inſtituted by a man whoſe opium was ſeized, pronounced a ſolemn judgment that the action was not juſtified by the regulations of the Board, and that it was an article of commerce, not of revenue. We do not however mean to make this an expreſs ſtipulation in our engagements with the Company; and that it might not be ſuppoſed we wiſh to have it in our power to commit oppreſſion ourſelves, or to allow it in our Gomaſtahs and Agents with impunity, we are willing to ſubmit to whatever regulations the Board may think fit to eſtabliſh, being convinced that the buſineſs cannot proſper unleſs equal juſtice can be diſtributed to the Ryots.

13. We engage to pay the Company 300 ſicca rupees, as a penalty for every cheſt ſhort of the ſtipulated amount of the Bahar opium that we may prove deficient in the delivery of.

14. We engage to deliver all the opium which we may or can provide, to the Company, or their Agents; and to pay a penalty of ſicca rupees 750 for every cheſt that we may ſell, barter, or otherwiſe diſpoſe of, to any other perſon or perſons whomſoever.

15. We engage to pay the uſual debts upon all and every part of ſuch opium as may happen to be imported into the Provinces of Bengal and Bahar, from Ghazypore, the country of the Rajah of Benares, or Oude.

16. The opium to be manufactured in the places furniſhed by the Company for the purpoſe, and the Company to keep the ſame in repair, as cuſtomary.

We rely on the experience which one of us has obtained in the opium buſineſs in Behar for four years, as Agent to the preſent Contractor, for being able to fulfil the engagements we now offer

offer; and we are of opinion, that no other perſon can undertake the concern in Bahar on the ſame terms, without certain loſs. Should, therefore, our offers for the Bahar opium be evidently more advantageous for the Company than thoſe of any other perſon, although our offers for the Bengal opium ſhould be higher, in that caſe,

17. We are hopeful that the Honourable Board will grant us a ſeparate contract for the proviſion of the Bahar opium.

(Signed) P. HEATLY, for Self
and
WM. YOUNG.

Calcutta,
the 13th Auguſt, 1785.

EXTRACT of Bengal Revenue Conſultations, the 9th September, 1785.

It appearing, from the reports delivered in by the reſpective Accomptants, that the propoſals from Meſſrs. Young and Heatly, bearing date the 13th of Auguſt 1785, are the loweſt;

Agreed, That they be accepted, and that the draft of the contract be accordingly prepared on the terms of the advertiſement of the 11th of July laſt, and of their propoſals, including the following farther expreſs proviſoes.

1ſt. That the Board reſerve to themſelves the appointment of inſpectors to ſuperintend the proviſion and manufacture of the opium.

2d. That it be the duty of the Collectors of the ſeveral diſtricts to hear all complaints of the Ryots againſt the Contractors, and their officers, and to grant ſuch redreſs, according to the former practice and uſage of the refractive diſtricts, as may be requiſite; and that this proviſion be publickly notified by advertiſement throughout the diſtricts where opium is manufactured, with this condition, that the Contractors may appeal to this Board from the deciſion of the collectors, provided ſuch appeal be made within one month from the date of ſuch Provincial deciſion, which is in the mean time to be in force, and obeyed, till the judgment on the appeal ſhall have been paſſed.

Ordered, That an abſtract of the propoſed contract, on the terms and conditions above noticed, be prepared by the Company's Attorney, and ſubmitted for the Board's approbation previous to its being drawn out at length.

Ordered, That Meſſrs. Young and Heatly be adviſed thereof, and called on to furniſh, for the Board's acceptance, the names they have to propoſe as ſecurities for the performance of their engagements with the Company, under ſuch a penalty as the Board may think proper to fix.

EXTRACT of Bengal Revenue Conſultations, the 30th September, 1785.

The Secretary lays before the Board the following letter from the Opium Contractors.

To Benjamin Aplin, Eſquire, Acting Secretary to the Revenue Department at Fort William.

Sir,

We have been favoured with your letter dated the 9th inſtant, with its encloſure; and in compliance to your requeſt, we now give you the names of Meſſrs. Suetonius, Grant, Heatly, and John Champain, as our ſecurities.

As the ſeaſon for making the advances has already commenced, we requeſt that you will be pleaſed to iſſue the neceſſary notice to the ſeveral Collectors, and to the Superintendant of the opium manufacture, in order that advances may be made as ſoon as poſſible.

We beg leave alſo to acquaint you, that we have appointed Mr. Humphrey Howarth, our Agent for Bengal opium.

We are, &c.

(Signed) P. HEATLY, for Self and
WILLM YOUNG.

Calcutta,
the 14th September 1785.

Agreed, That an order be immediately ſent to the Committee of Revenue, to cauſe the ſtipulated advance to be made to the Opium Contractors without loſs of time, and that the Contractors be informed thereof.

EXTRACT of the Revenue Letter from Bengal, dated 15th October, 1785.

Para. 17. Sundry propoſals having been received for contracting for the proviſion of the opium produced in Bengal and Behar, in conſequence of the advertiſement, which we apprized you in our late addreſs from this department had been made for that purpoſe, they have accordingly been taken into our conſideration, together with the calculations which had been made by the Accomptants General to this and the public departments, what each of them would amount to per maund; and it appearing from the latter, that the terms offered by Meſſrs. Wm. Young and Patrick Heatly were conſiderably the loweſt of any that were tendered to us, we accordingly accepted of them, under the terms ſtated therein and in the advertiſement, for a period of four years; ſubject, however, to your revocation, and for the ſpecific quantity to be produced in Behar, &c. of 3200 cheſts, at the rate of ſicca rupees 64 8 per maund, with the ſaid commiſſion on the ſales in Calcutta as was allowed to the late and preſent contractors, of 2½ per cent.; and for the quantity to be produced in Bengal, 700 cheſts, at the rate of ſicca rupees 100 per maund, of 200 ſicca rupees per cheſt.

18. For your particular information on this ſubject, we beg leave to refer you to the advertiſement entered on our proceedings the 11th of July laſt, and to the propoſals, copy of which is tranſmitted a ſeparate number in the packet. You will pleaſe to obſerve, that the Company have a proſpect of a conſiderable profit upon the preſent opium contract.

EXTRACT of Bengal Revenue Conſultations, the 20th October 1785.

The following letter, from the opium contractor, having been circulated on the 5th inſtant, the Governor General delivered the opinion thereafter entered; which being agreed to by the other members,

members, the neceſſary directions were accordingly tranſmitted, on the 8th inſtant, to the Company's attorney.

To the Honourable John Macpherſon, Eſquire, Governor General, &c. Council of Revenue at Fort William.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

The Honourable Board having reſolved, "That it be the duty of the collectors of the ſeveral "diſtricts to hear all complaints of the opium Ryotts, againſt their contractors and their officers, "and to grant them ſuch redreſs, according to former practice and uſage of the diſtricts, as may "be requiſite," we are induced to requeſt that the Honourable Board will be pleaſed to direct, the ſeveral collectors, in every inſtance of complaint being made to them by the opium Ryotts, to refer ſuch complaint, in the firſt inſtance, to the contractors; and if it ſhould happen that the contractors, on ſuch reference being made to them, ſhould not afford the Ryott ſuch redreſs as he may be entitled to, in that caſe the collector ſhould proceed to relieve the Ryott, in ſuch manner as the nature of his caſe may require.

As every cauſe of complaint of the Ryott originates in the miſconduct of the Contractors' Gomaſtah, and as it is by no means the intereſt of the Contactors themſelves to authorize any oppreſſion of the Ryott, we can with truth aſſure the Honourable Board, that we have no other motive whatever for propoſing this alteration in the Board's reſolution, but that of obviating unneceſſary delay and obſtruction, which the mode preſcribed might create in a buſineſs of ſo extenſive a nature as the opium cultivation.

We have the honour to be, &c.

Calcutta, the 12th September 1785. (Signed) P. HEATLY, for ſelf and WM YOUNG.

Governor General.—I approve of the propoſed alteraton, for it is favourable to the Ryott.

EXTRACT of Bengal Revenue Conſultations, the 23d November 1785.

Read the following letter from the opium Contractors:

To Benjn. Alpin, Eſquire, Acting Secretary to the Revenue Department.

Sir,

We requeſt you will procure an order from the Honourable Board for the draft of the Opium Contract to be ſent to us for our inſpection, previouſly to its being laid before the Board for their final determination.

We are, &c.

Calcutta, 10th October 1785. (Signed) P. HEATLY, for ſelf and WILLIAM YOUNG, Opium Contractor.

Read the following letter from the Company's attorney.

To William Webber, Eſquire, Secretary to the Honourable Board of Revenue.

Sir,

Herewith I tranſmit a draft of the Opium Contract between the Honourable Company and Meſſrs. Young and Heatly, which I requeſt you will pleaſe to ſubmit forthwith to the Honourable Board, for their approbation.

It has been reviſed by the Honourable Company's ſenior advocate, and approved by the Advocate General.

I am, &c

Calcutta,
November 2nd 1785.

(Signed) GEO. WROUGHTON,
Atty. to the Honourable Company.

Ordered, That the Opium Contractors be furniſhed with a copy of the draft of the contract accompanying the Attorney's letter, and that the draft do lie over for conſideration till their anſwer is received.

EXTRACT of Bengal Revenue Conſultations, the 2d February 1786.

Read the following farther letter and encloſure from the opium Contractors.

To the Honourable John M'Pherſon, Eſquire, Governor General, &c. Council of Revenue at Fort William.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

Accompanying your Secretary's letter of the 23d Ultimo, we received a draft of the Opium Contract, agreeably to our requeſt of the 10th October. As the ſenſe of many of the cauſes of the draft of the contract is objectionable to us, we hope a fair ſtatement of conſequence to be apprehended: and our reaſons for wiſhing it altered in ſeveral material points will meet your conviction and approbation. We are ſenſible that numberleſs prejudices ſtand in the way of an application from us for any modification of your reſolutions for guarding the Ryotts from injury and oppreſſion; but we cannot but form hopes of overcoming them, when your Honourable Board ſhall have given due weight to the peculiar circumſtances we are as Contractors, in virtue of the merits of our terms rather than of other aid. It has been conſidered worthy your attention and deliberation to give ſecurity to the cultivators of the poppy; we fear that, however, in doing it the good management of the opium buſineſs is likely to ſuffer: We muſt beg to be credited when we aſſure your Honourable Board, that our expectations for the management of this buſineſs can be realized only by giving ſatisfaction and encouragement to the cultivators; and we are confident that the ſteps we have taken, and ſhall continue to purſue will in future take off many of the ſtigmas with which the buſineſs has heretofore been burthened, and be as beneficial to Government as ſatisfactory to the Ryott.

We encloſe for your conſideration, on a ſeparate paper, our notes on the draft of the contract; and we beg permiſſion to mention to you the numbers on the margin of the draft for a reference to the notes.

We are with reſpect,
Honourable Sir, and Sirs,
Your moſt obedient humble ſervants,

Patna,
27th December 1785.

(Signed) P. HEATLY,
WM YOUNG.

ARTICLES

ARTICLES in the Draft of the Contract.	NOTES on the Draft of the Contract.
1ſt.	1ſt.
" And alſo a further ſum of two ſicca rupees, and eight annas per cent. on the net proceeds of all ſuch opium the produce of Bahar and Bengal aforeſaid, at the medium of the ſales thereof in Calcutta."	Previouſly to our giving in propoſals for the contract, we formed an account eſtimate of profits; and th s commiſſion having been paid to all former Contractors upon the ſales, and not upon the actual profits of the opium, amounted frequently to 30,000 ſicca rupees per annum, and upwards, we conſequently valued it accordingly; we muſt require it to be declared in the contract to be on the ſales, in ſame manner expreſsly as it was paid to Meſſr s Griffith, Mackenzie, and the late Contractor.
2d.	2d.
" And further that all the ſeveral ſums of money to be advanced and paid by the ſaid United Company, their ſucceſſors or aſſigns, to the ſaid William Young and Patrick Heatly, their executors, adminiſtrators, and aſſigns, as aforeſaid, for ſuch ſeveral quantities of opium aforeſaid, ſhall be ſo paid by the ſaid United Company, their ſucceſſors, or aſſigns, in Sonaut rupees, at the ſeveral places where the ſame opium is manufactured or produced, rating or valuing each Sonaut rupee at five per cent. leſs in value than a ſicca rupee."	This batta being 5 per cent. ſicca, makes the Sonaut rupee 5¼ per cent. Sonaut batta. The accounts in Bahar are made out in this manner, and our firſt advances were iſſued at that rate.
3d.	3d.
Query, What weight?	The weight is factory maunds, of 72. 10 ſicca to the ſeer, the uſual weight.
4th.	4th.
" And it is hereby mutually covenanted, concluded, and agreed upon, by and between the ſaid parties by theſe preſents, that in caſe any Zemindar, Talookdar, Chowdry, Ryot, or any other native inhabitant in India, of any deſcription whatſoever, ſhall think himſelf aggrieved by any act to be done and performed by the ſaid William Young and Patrick Heatly, &c. &c. &c.	We require, that in the contract all deſcriptions of perſons now in the draft be denominated cultivators of opium, and for the following reaſons: the clauſe, as it now ſtands, goes much beyond the Board's reſolution, and is unneceſſary to guard the real cultivation from injury and oppreſſion; and we object to it now, in perfect confidence that it will be totally done away: we cannot anſwer for our duly performing our engagements to the Company, if it is not. The intereſts of Zemindars, Talookdars, &c. and the Ryott, are more diſtinct than that of Contractors and Ryots, for the Zemindars, Talookdars, &c. are conſtantly impeding the opium cultivation, becauſe the Ryot derives protection from their oppreſſions from the Contractors. If the intent of this clauſe is to ſecure Zemindars, Talookdars, &c. from injury, let it be done by expreſsly calling all the foregoing claſſes of perſons cultivators of opium; ſo that if a Zemindar, Talookdar, &c. actually cultivates the poppy, he will come within the limits marked out under the general deſcription in the Board's reſolutions of Ryots.

4th con-

Read the following letter from the Company's attorney.

To William Webber, Eſquire, Secretary to the Honourable Board of Revenue.

Sir,

Herewith I tranſmit a draft of the Opium Contract between the Honourable Company and Meſſrs. Young and Heatly, which I requeſt you will pleaſe to ſubmit forthwith to the Honourable Board, for their approbation.

It has been reviſed by the Honourable Company's ſenior advocate, and approved by the Advocate General.

I am, &c

Calcutta,
November 2nd 1785.

(Signed) GEO. WROUGHTON,
Atty. to the Honourable Company.

Ordered, That the Opium Contractors be furniſhed with a copy of the draft of the contract accompanying the Attorney's letter, and that the draft do lie over for conſideration till their anſwer is received.

EXTRACT of Bengal Revenue Conſultations, the 2d February 1786.

Read the following farther letter and encloſure from the opium Contractors.

To the Honourable John M'Pherſon, Eſquire, Governor General, &c. Council of Revenue at Fort William.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

Accompanying your Secretary's letter of the 23d Ultimo, we received a draft of the Opium Contract, agreeably to our requeſt of the 10th October. As the ſenſe of many of the cauſes of the draft of the contract is objectionable to us, we hope a fair ſtatement of conſequence to be apprehended: and our reaſons for wiſhing it altered in ſeveral material points will meet your conviction and approbation. We are ſenſible that numberleſs prejudices ſtand in the way of an application from us for any modification of your reſolutions for guarding the Ryotts from injury and oppreſſion; but we cannot but form hopes of overcoming them, when your Honourable Board ſhall have given due weight to the peculiar circumſtances we are as Contractors, in virtue of the merits of our terms rather than of other aid. It has been conſidered worthy your attention and deliberation to give ſecurity to the cultivators of the poppy; we fear that, however, in doing it the good management of the opium buſineſs is likely to ſuffer: We muſt beg to be credited when we aſſure your Honourable Board, that our expectations for the management of this buſineſs can be realized only by giving ſatisfaction and encouragement to the cultivators; and we are confident that the ſteps we have taken, and ſhall continue to purſue will in future take off many of the ſtigmas with which the buſineſs has heretofore been burthened, and be as beneficial to Government as ſatisfactory to the Ryott.

We encloſe for your conſideration, on a ſeparate paper, our notes on the draft of the contract; and we beg permiſſion to mention to you the numbers on the margin of the draft for a reference to the notes.

We are with reſpect,
Honourable Sir, and Sirs,
Your moſt obedient humble ſervants,

Patna,
27th December 1785.

(Signed) P. HEATLY,
WM YOUNG.

ARTICLES

ARTICLES in the Draft of the Contract.

1ſt.

" And alſo a further ſum of two ſicca ru-
" pees, and eight annas per cent. on the net
" proceeds of all ſuch opium the produce of
" Bahar and Bengal aforeſaid, at the medium
" of the ſales thereof in Calcutta."

2d.

" And further that all the ſeveral ſums of
" money to be advanced and paid by the ſaid
" United Company, their ſucceſſors or aſſigns,
" to the ſaid William Young and Patrick Heat-
" ly, their executors, adminiſtrators, and aſ-
" ſigns, as aforeſaid, for ſuch ſeveral quanti-
" ties of opium aforeſaid, ſhall be ſo paid by
" the ſaid United Company, their ſucceſſors,
" or aſſigns, in Sonaut rupees, at the ſeveral
" places where the ſame opium is manufac-
" tured or produced, rating or valuing each
" Sonaut rupee at five per cent. leſs in value
" than a ſicca rupee."

3d.

Query, What weight?

4th.

" And it is hereby mutually covenanted,
" concluded, and agreed upon, by and be-
" tween the ſaid parties by theſe preſents, that
" in caſe any Zemindar, Talookdar, Chow-
" dry, Ryot, or any other native inhabitant
" in India, of any deſcription whatſoever,
" ſhall think himſelf aggrieved by any act to
" be done and performed by the ſaid William
" Young and Patrick Heatly, &c. &c. &c.

NOTES on the Draft of the Contract.

1ſt.

Previouſly to our giving in propoſals for the contract, we formed an account eſtimate of profits; and th s commiſſion having been paid to all former Contractors upon the ſales, and not upon the actual profits of the opium, amounted frequently to 30,000 ſicca rupees per annum, and upwards, we conſequently valued it accordingly; we muſt require it to be declared in the contract to be on the ſales, in ſame manner expreſsly as it was paid to Meſſr s Griffith, Mackenzie, and the late Contractor.

2d.

This batta being 5 per cent. ſicca, makes the Sonaut rupee 5¼ per cent. Sonaut batta. The accounts in Bahar are made out in this manner, and our firſt advances were iſſued at that rate.

3d.

The weight is factory maunds, of 72. 10 ſicca to the ſeer, the uſual weight.

4th.

We require, that in the contract all deſcriptions of perſons now in the draft be denominated cultivators of opium, and for the following reaſons: the clauſe, as it now ſtands, goes much beyond the Board's reſolution, and is unneceſſary to guard the real cultivation from injury and oppreſſion; and we object to it now, in perfect confidence that it will be totally done away: we cannot anſwer for our duly performing our engagements to the Company, if it is not. The intereſts of Zemindars, Talookdars, &c. and the Ryott, are more diſtinct than that of Contractors and Ryots, for the Zemindars, Talookdars, &c. are conſtantly impeding the opium cultivation, becauſe the Ryot derives protection from their oppreſſions from the Contractors. If the intent of this clauſe is to ſecure Zemindars, Talookdars, &c. from injury, let it be done by expreſsly calling all the foregoing claſſes of perſons cultivators of opium; ſo that if a Zemindar, Talookdar, &c. actually cultivates the poppy, he will come within the limits marked out under the general deſcription in the Board's reſolutions of Ryots.

4th con-

4th continued.

" to complain to the Judge of the Dewanny " Adawlut for the time being," &c. &c.

4th continued.

The precautions neceſſary to ſecure the Ryot from oppreſſion, are what we are as anxious to find out, and fully as much intereſted in adopting, as Government can be; but it requires conſideration, that the ſteps taken do not, in the firſt inſtance, hurt the eſtabliſhed mode of managing the opium cultivation, and eventually falling on Government itſelf.

We alſo require, that the Collector be ſolely empowered to take cognizance of complaints: when we fail to redreſs grievances, according to the draft of the contract, ſeveral other perſons in ſtation are authorized to take cognizance of ſuch complaints, ſo that the Ryott may, at the ſame time he carries a complaint to the Collector, carry it to the Dewanny Adawlut, and elſewhere, to the great interruption of our time and buſineſs.

Note in Margin of the Draft of the Contract.

* Conſidering the ample powers and indulgencies yielded to the Contractors, and the helpleſs and unprotected ſtate of the lower order of the natives in the remote parts of the provinces, caſes may ariſe in which delay would operate as a refuſal of juſtice.

We requeſt eight weeks time to hear and decide on all complaints againſt our Gomaſtahs; many of the complaints frequently requiring Aumeens to be deputed to ſettle them; the Ryotts, who are really injured, will be ſatisfied to have juſtice done them at the expiration of that time, and thoſe who would only complain to give us trouble, will find it too much time to throw away to uncertainty.

The Board are agreed on the following reſolutions on the preceding addreſs and obſervations of the Contractors, in reſpect to the claules in the draft of their engagements.

1ſt. That the Contractors do receive their commiſſion in the ſame manner as the late Contractors.

2. That they do alſo receive the ſame batta as the late Contractors.

3. That the former weight be adhered to.

4. That the general term " Cultivators of opium," be admitted.

5. That the Ryotts be allowed to complain either to the Collector or Judge, as they may give the preference, but neither the Collector nor Judge is to proceed to inveſtigate their complaint till they declare that they have made application to the Contractors, and not obtained redreſs.

6. That no more than four weeks be allowed for the purpoſe of hearing and deciding on all complaints againſt the Contractors Gomaſtahs.

Ordered, That the draft of the Contractors engagements, together with a copy of their preceding letter, and of its enclolure, and of the above reſolutions thereon, be tranſmitted to the Company's Attorney, with directions, as ſpeedily as poſſible to make the alterations thereon agreed to; and, after taking the opinion of the Company's Counſel thereon, to engroſs the deeds fair for ſignature.

Ordered, That Mr. William Young, one of the Contractors now at the Preſidency, be deſired to attend on the Company's Attorney, and afford him any aſſiſtance or explanation he may deem neceſſary in drawing the deeds out.

Read

Read again the addreſs from the Opium Contractors, recorded in Conſultation the 30th September 1785.

The Board deeming the ſecurities tendered by Meſſrs. Young and Heatly ſufficiently reſponſible,

Agreed, That they be accepted.

No penalty having yet been ſettled for the contract granted to Meſſrs. Heatly and Young, for the proviſion of opium in the Provinces of Bengal and Bahar;

Agreed, That it be fixed at the ſum of ſicca rupees two lacks.

Ordered, That the Company's Attorney be adviſed thereof, with directions to prepare a ſecurity bond accordingly.

Ordered, That the uſual publications be made at the ſeveral diviſions wherein opium is manufactured.

EXTRACT of Bengal Revenue Conſultations of the 28th January 1775, 25th July 1777, 20th October 1778, 19th January 1779, and and 26th March 1779, relative to farming of the Lands and Appointments in the Provincial Councils.

EXTRACT of Bengal Revenue Conſultations, the 28th January 1775.

MR. Francis begs leave to ſubmit to the conſideration of the Board, the following heads or inſtructions which he propoſes for the Provincial Councils. He has endeavoured to accommodate them, as far as his judgment goes, to the Act of Parliament, and the general inſtructions given us by the Honourable Court of Directors. If theſe propoſed inſtructions ſhould appear to be improper or incompleat, he requeſts that the Governor General, and every Member of the Board, will be pleaſed to offer ſuch farther alterations and improvements as they may think adviſeable. Some new inſtructions ſeem abſolutely and immediately neceſſary, in order to carry ſuch clauſes in the Act, and in our inſtructions, as relate to this matter, into execution.

Heads of Inſtructions to the Provincial Councils.

1ſt. That the Legiſlature having thought it adviſeable to eſtabliſh the preſent Supreme Council, with the particular and profeſſed view, among many other important objects, of taking upon them the ordinary management and government of the Territorial acquiſitions and revenues in theſe kingdoms, the Board having thought neceſſary, in addition to the ſtanding inſtructions under which the Provincial Councils now act, to require them to fix their moſt careful attention to ſuch clauſes in the late Act as have any referrence to the collection and management of the revenue, or to the perſons who may be employed in that branch of the Company's ſervice, and that they incloſe a copy of the Act.

2d. That they do not fail to adhere ſtrictly to the prohibitions contained in the Act, with reſpect to trade and preſents, or, if they find that any proviſions in the Act do of courſe create a neceſſity of any alteration in their ſtanding inſtructions, that they do apprize the Board thereof.

3d. That the Board, placing the higheſt confidence in their honour and integrity, think it unneceſſary to ſay more on this ſubject, except that they are determined to carry the law into execution in the ſtricteſt manner.

4. That the Honourable Court of Directors having recommended to us the ſtricteſt œconomy, in appointing the ſalaries to be allowed to the officers employed in the revenue department, and having directed that no greater ſalaries be eſtabliſhed than the importance of their ſeveral ſtations may render neceſſary, which ſalaries are to be deemed proviſional only, until they ſhall have received their approbation.

5. That we have accordingly proceeded upon an united view of both theſe important conſiderations, in the ſettling the ſalaries of the Chiefs, Members of each Provincial Council.

6. That we conſider the ſalaries ſo ſettled as ſtanding in lieu of all emoluments whatever, except the advantage of houſe rent, where the Honourable Company have houſes that can, without detriment to their ſervice, be ſpared for the uſe of the Chief.

7. That a tranſlation into the Perſian and Bengal languages, of that clauſe in that Act of Parliament, which relates to the acceptance of preſents, and to the reſtriction of all perſons concerned in the collection of the revenue from trade, be affixed in ſome conſpicuous place in the Cutchery, together with a copy in Engliſh, for the information of the natives, and all others whom it may concern.

8. That they ſhall not collect any of the revenue of the new year, commencing the of April 1775, until the balances of the preceding year are paid up, or at leaſt till the account be ſettled.

9. That for the future, in caſe the farmers cannot pay up the balances of the preceding year, they be diſpoſſeſſed, and the farms for the remainder of the term fixed by the firſt leaſe, be ſet up to auction, with a decided preference in favour of any propoſal made by the original landholders, or cultivators of the land, or others who are actually reſident in the diſtrict.

Mr. Francis ſubmits it to the Board, whether at this time, and taking all circumſtances into conſideration, it might not be adviſeable to aſſign the farms, as faſt as the leaſes fall in, or may be forfeited, at once to the Zemindars, Tallookdars, or others, who may appear to have an equitable right or natural intereſt in the lands, on the beſt terms that can be made for the Company, making it an indiſpenſable condition, that the farmers be actually reſident on or near their farms, or at all events within the diſtrict.

10. That where the inſtruction in the foregoing article cannot take effect, the farms of which the balances are not paid up become khas, and be immediately let to the Ryotts, upon the Fuſſildar or Headman of the purgunnah becoming ſecurity for the rents.

11. That no encouragement be given to the farmers to expect any future remiſſion in their rents, as the Company's orders on this head are very ſtrict, and the Board is determined to carry them into execution as cloſely as poſſible.

12. That they make it a ſtanding rule, to forward to us monthly a price current of all ſorts of grain and ſalt, at the different markets eſtabliſhed in their diviſion; this account is to be accompanied by a Bengal account, under the ſeal and ſignature of the Drogas of the ſeveral principal Gunges; and, as uſual, an annual amount of the produce of grain, &c. conformably to the orders of the 16th Auguſt.

Ordered, That they lie for conſideration.

EXTRACT

EXTRACT of Bengal Revenue Conſultations the 25th July 1777.

Governor General.

From the conſideration of the decayed ſtate of the diſtrict of Rungpore, its diſtance from the actual ſeat of the Provincial Council of the diviſion to which it belongs, and the difficulty which annual experience has ſhewn there is of forming any arrangements in it, but on the ſpot, I am induced to ſeek for ſpecial and extraordinary aids to facilitate and expedite the concluſion of the new ſettlement of that diſtrict, which, if delayed, may occaſion a conſiderable loſs in the collections, and intricacy in adjuſting the accounts, of the current year.

I therefore recommend, that Mr. Charles Purling may be removed from his ſeat in the Provincial Council of Dacca, and appointed to the charge and ſuperintendency of the diſtrict of Rungpore, and the other diſtricts which were comprehended in the Collectorſhip of Rungpore, when it was in the charge of Mr. Purling, in the year 1773, except the 9 Anna diviſion of Goraugut—That it be given him in ſpecial charge to form the ſettlement of thoſe diſtricts independently of the Provincial Council, and conformably to the general inſtructions lately ſent to the Provincial Councils and Collectors; and that copies of theſe be given him for that purpoſe—That he be ordered to correſpond only with this Board on the buſineſs of the ſettlement, but that he furniſh the Provincial Council of Dinagepore with an account of the ſettlement, and other papers relative to it, when formed, that they may be entered in the general account of that diviſion; that he do alſo furniſh them monthly with the account of his collections and diſburſements, and receive their orders for the diſpoſal of the money which may remain in his hands after deducting the latter—That the Chief and Council of Dinagepore be directed to deliver over to Mr. Purling the public papers of thoſe diſtricts, and to place the Aumlahs, or officers of the collections, under his authority—And that he be allowed the ſame eſtabliſhment as the preſent Collector of Silburries.

It is neceſſary that I ſhould mention, as the reaſons for commiting the former appendages of Rungpore to the preſent charge of Mr. Purling, except Goraugut, that, beſides that they are conſiderable in their amount, they are divided from Dinagepore by the diſtrict of Rungpore, through which the officers of the revenue muſt paſs if they continue under the Provincial Council of that diviſion, as will appear by a ſimple inſpection of the map.

Mr. Francis.

If I am not miſtaken, the Chief of the Dinagepore Council has been lately at Rungpore, and reſided there for ſome time, for the expreſs purpoſe of ſettling that diſtrict; which I believe he has completed. I deſire that their letter on that ſubject may be read:—Which being read, Mr. Francis adds;—I find that, in conſequence of the orders of the 4th April, the Council of Dinagepore give us the following information, in a letter dated the 22d April, which has not yet been recorded:—" We take the liberty to repreſent to your honours, &c. that the Zemindars " of Rungpore, though capable of conducting the buſineſs of their purgannahs were never en- " truſted with collection of the revenues, either during the time of the former Government, or " ſince that period. The collections have always been made by means of Sezawalls and ſe- "curities; but, as poverty is the only reaſon we know of, why theſe Zemindars have not been " depended on equally with others, we have not thought that the cauſe ſufficient to delay giv- " ing them poſſeſſion of their inheritance."

It appears by theſe letters, that the ſettlement made for the laſt year by Mr. Harwood has been approved of by the Board; and that, preparatory to the ſettlement intended to be made for preſent year, the Zemindars of Rungpore have been put in poſſeſſion of their lands. If the demand on them for the preſent year is not to exceed that of the laſt, it cannot require any particular ſuperintendance to make the ſettlement.—If any alterations are to take place, by whom can they be carried into execution ſo properly, as by the Gentlemen reſiding on the ſpot, who are thoroughly acquainted with the actual ſtate of the diſtrict, and who can carry our orders into

effect

effect without any additional expence to the Company?—I presume it will not be said, that the Members of the Dinagepore Council are defective either in abilities or integrity. Mr. Harwood's personal character is deservedly and universally respected; and I believe the Gentlemen who act with him are as well qualified for the trust intended to be reposed in Mr. Purling, as any other of the Company's servants.—I object to the proposed appointment, as unnecessary for any purpose of real service; as creating an extraordinary and useless expence; and as an indirect imputation of want of knowledge or capacity in the Members of the Dinagepore Council.

Mr. Barwell.

In the letter quoted by Mr. Francis, of the 22d April 1777, the Gentlemen of Dinagepore should have observed, that the district of Rungpore has been immemorially a Phousdarry established; that it stands in the same predicament as the districts of Purnea, and of Rajemahal, in all which there are Zemindars, but without the consequence and responsibility annexed to that character in districts that are not Phousdarry establishments. The charge mentioned by Mr. Harwood will be an alteration of the old institution of the country; and, from the lands being divided into very small parcels, he would throw a business of detail on his council of too minute a nature for them possibly to attend to, and under such circumstance positively render a Collector necessary. I by no means reject the idea started by the Dinagepore Council, of making the settlement with the land-holders; I only remark it to be an innovation, and a thing impracticable to keep up the revenue of the district. If all the Curdea Mahals of Rungpore, which are very numerous, are to pay each independantly to the Sudder, I entirely approve of the Governor General's motion for committing the charge of this district, with its settlement, to Mr. Purling; and I embrace with pleasure this opportunity of shewing, by my acquiescence to the motion, a respect to the recommendation of the Court of Directors.

Mr. Francis.

I approve highly of the restitution of the lands to the Zemindars; but supposing there were any valid objections to the measure in case of Rungpore, it would be against the orders of the Board given in conformity to a motion of the Governor General's, not against the Dinagepore Council, who carry their orders into execution.

Mr. Barwell.

By the Dinagepore letter, it should seem the revenue is to be settled separately for every petty Mahl. In my opinion, this is not warranted by an order of the Board, no more than it is by the particular rule granted by Mr. Francis.

Sir John Clavering.

Though I entirely agree in opinion with Mr. Hastings, of the sense he entertains of the danger that must ensue to the collections of the present year, from the delay in making the settlement, yet I am so unfortunate as not to agree with him, that this danger will be removed by the expedient he now proposes, of sending Mr. Purling to Rungpore. This district has been settled in the two preceding years by Mr. Harwood, of whose ability, integrity, and prudence, not only in the management of that district, but of the whole division that he superintends, this Government has had the most convincing proofs. The Court of Directors, who have had many opportunities of comparing the ostensible reasons assigned for measures proposed by Mr. Hastings with the real ones intended, will judge whether this be not a measure of accommodation to dispose of Mr. Purling, rather than one of public utility. If Mr. Purling was originally removed from his superintendance of this district, or of Coach Beychar, to be a Member of the Council of Dacca, by his own desire, I think it is probable that removing him back again to the same districts may not be agreeable to him. At all events, I must object to it, as a measure of unnecessary expence, and, as I believe, of more prejudice than real utility.

Governor General.

I shall add nothing to what I have already said in support of the measure; but, as much pains have been taken to represent it in a light invidious to the Members of the Dinagepore Council, I declare that it has not proceeded from any distrust entertained by me, either of the abilities or integrity of those Gentlemen, all whom I esteem, and some in a very great degree. The necessity

tion will be fully occupied by the ſettlement of the other diſtricts of his diviſion. Were it, as the General ſuppoſed, a meaſure of accommodation to diſpoſe of Mr. Purling, yet if it, at the ſame time, contribute to the public ſervice, I ſhould not deem this an improper motive for it, eſpecially at this time, in which a cordial and mutual aſſiſtance of the Members of the Dacca Council is eſſentially neceſſary to the ſpeedy concluſion of the new ſettlement.

Mr. Francis.

I beg leave to record my diſſent to the propoſed reſolution, becauſe I think it a direct breach of a poſitive order of the Company, contained in the 62d paragraph of their letter of the 24th December laſt: Speaking of a ſupernumerary ſeat in the Council of Dacca, which they had intended as a particular mark of favour for Mr. Cowper, they order that the number be extended to ſix on that account; but it is their expreſs order, that whenever the number ſhall again be reduced to five, no other Member ſhall be added, nor the preſent appointment made a precedent on future occaſion. I preſume it would be an evaſion of the ſpirit of this order, either to ſay that it was meant to be confined to Dacca only, and that it expreſs the ſenſe of the Company with reſpect to the conſtitutions of the Councils in general, or that Mr. Purling is not literally appointed to a ſeat in the Council of Dinagepore at the ſame time that a conſiderable part of the duty of that Council is committed to him, and a portion of the diſtrict, originally ſubjected to their ſuperintendance, is ſet apart for him, In effect, he has greater powers than any ſingle Member of that Council, except Mr. Gladwin, for whom another portion of that diſtrict has alſo been ſet apart. The effect, of the whole arrangement is, that the Dinagepore Council will really, and in fact, conſiſt of ſeven Members, there being already one ſupernumerary to the eſtabliſhment; and of theſe ſeven, two of the junior Members will enjoy a ſalary of 1,500 Sa Rs a month each, when the Chief of the Council has but 1,200.

Mr. Barwell.

I ſhall beg a few words on this diſſent, though the time of the day is ſo late as ſcarce to allow me to make an obſervation.—Mr. Purling and Mr. Gladwin I can only eſteem as honorary Members of the Dinagepore Council. The real Council conſiſts of a Chief and four, upon the preſent eſtabliſhment. With reſpect to the difference of ſalary, that of the Chief and Council of Dinagepore is drawn clear by the ſeveral Members, and not burthened with any eſtabliſhments of black ſervants or contingencies.—This is not the caſe with the ſtations of Silberries and Rungpore: Contingencies and various incidental charges being to be diſburſed out of that allowance of the 1,500 rupees per month, drawn by the Gentlemen in thoſe ſtations. (Vide Conſultations of 4th April, when the Board gave the allowances to Mr. Gladwin, on his application by letter, dated the 7th March).

Reſolved, That Mr. Purling be appointed to Rungpore, in the manner propoſed by the Governor General.

Agreed, That the following letter be written to Mr. Purling.

To Mr. Charles Purling.

Sir,

We have this day thought proper to remove you from your ſeat in the Provincial Council of Dacca, and to appoint you to the charge and ſuperintendancy of the diſtrict of Rungpore, and the other diſtricts which were comprehended in the collectorſhip of Rungpore, when it was in your charge in the year 1773, except the 9 Anna diviſion of Gorangut. We direct you therefore to proceed thither, to form the ſettlement of thoſe diſtricts, independantly of the Provincial Councils of Dinagepore, and conformably to the general inſtructions lately ſent to the Provincial Councils, of which we herewith tranſmit you a copy.

We direct you to correſpond only with us on the buſineſs of the ſettlement; but that you do furniſh the Provincial Council of Dinagepore with an account of the ſettlement, and other papers relating to it, when formed, that they be entered in the general accounts of that diviſion; you muſt alſo furniſh them monthly with the account of your collections and diſburſements, and receive their orders for the diſpoſal of the money which may remain in your hands after deducting the latter.

We have given the neceſſary inſtructions to the Chief and Council of Dinagepore, to deliver over to you the public papers of thoſe diſtricts, and to place the Aumlah your under authority. Your allowance is to be 1,500 ſicca rupees per month, in lieu of all charges and contingent expences whatever.

Fort William,
23d July, 1777.

We are, &c.

EXTRACT of Bengal Revenue Conſultations, the 20th October, 1783.

Governor General.

I beg leave to recommend the following perſons to be appointed Preſident and Member of the Committee of Revenue for the diviſion of Calcutta, in the room of thoſe removed from thence by the reſolution paſſed at our laſt meeting, viz.

Meſſrs. Edward Golding,
David Anderſon,
John Evelyn,
Henry Vanſittart,
Joſeph Cator.

That Meſſrs. Golding and Anderſon be removed, for this purpoſe, from the Provincial Council of Patna. The Committee will then conſiſt of Meſſrs. Golding, Anderſon, Shore, Evelyn, Vanſittart, and Joſeph Cator.

Mr. Wheler.

I object to the whole of this arrangement.

Mr. Francis.

I object to the whole of this arrangement generally, and particularly to the ſuperceſſion of Mr. Perring, the Secretary, by the appointment of Mr. Joſeph Cator, who ſtands below him in the ſervice.

Mr. Barwell.

I agree to the liſt propoſed by the Governor General. The nomination of Mr. Joſeph Cator, if irregular, does not want precedents to authorize it. This gentleman, it is proper I ſhould obſerve, was put into the Governor's liſt at my requeſt.

Reſolved, That Meſſrs. Golding, Anderſon, Evelyn, Vanſittart, and Joſeph Cator, be appointed Preſident and Members of the Committee of Revenue for the diviſion of Calcutta, in the room of thoſe removed from thence at the laſt meeting.

Governor General.

I beg leave to propoſe the three following arrangements.

1ſt. I recommend that Meſſrs. Bright and Keating be appointed Members of the Provincial Council of Patna, in the room of Meſſrs. Golding and Anderſon, removed.

2. That Mr. Mac Dowall be appointed a Supernumerary Member of the Council of Burdwan, which, in effect, conſiſts of but four Members, by the neceſſary and continual abſence of Mr. Peiarce, detached for the ſuperintendancy of the collections of Midnapore and Jellaſore. And

3. That

3. That Mr. Willoughby Leigh may be appointed to the Council of Dinagepore, in the place of Mr. Gunning, deceaſed.

Mr. Wheler.

I ſhall object to the whole of the arrangement, not having had ſufficient time allowed me to form any judgment whether the perſons, therein recommended, are properly qualified for the places to which they are propoſed to be appointed. I ſhall object to every appointment, ſo long as I have a ſeat at this Board, that is hurried on in a ſimilar manner; as, I think, in common decency, and in compliance to that civility which one gentleman has a right to expect from another, every Member of the Board ſhould be informed of the number of candidates for places that are vacant, and likewiſe the preference which the Governor General means to give to thoſe candidates, if he chuſes to mention that preference. I never knew it otherwiſe at any Board where I have ſat. On the contrary, I ſhould have thought myſelf guilty of a diſreſpect to every individual of that very reſpectable Board where I have preſided, if I had not followed that rule.

Mr. Francis.

Every one of theſe three propoſitions, beſides being liable to other objections, is againſt the poſitive orders of the Company in the 62d paragraph of their letter of the 24th December. 1776. After having themſelves appointed Mr. Cowper a Supernumerary Member of the Dacca Council, they add, " whenever the number ſhall again be reduced to five, no other Member " ſhall be added, nor the preſent appointment made a precedent on any future occaſion."

By the appointment of Meſſrs. Bright and Keating, the Patna Council will continue to conſiſt of ſix Members. When Mr. Anderſon was appointed a Supernumerary Member, his caſe was ſaid to be ſingular—his abilities and ſervices were ſaid to entitle him to an extraordinary diſtinction.—Is any motive of that kind alledged in behalf of Mr. Keating, or do any circumſtances exiſt to juſtify the continuance of the ſupernumerary place created for Mr. Anderſon? —I object to this appointment for another reaſon: it moſt cruelly and unjuſtly ſuperſedes Mr. Laplant, and the other Gentlemen, who have been many years ſerving the Company, at that ſtation, and in favour of Gentlemen no way diſtinguiſhed, that I know of, by their ſervices or merits.

The ſecond propoſition creates a Supernumerary Member to the Council of Burdwan, and aſſigns a reaſon for it from which I ſhould have drawn the oppoſite concluſion. Mr. Peiarce is detached for the ſuperintendency of Midnapore, and therefore his place at the Board muſt be filled up. This with me would be an additional objection to Mr. Peiarce's having a ſeparate collectorſhip; but if, by his being ſo detached, the Burdwan Council, who at the utmoſt have little or nothing to do, are relieved from the care of that portion of their zella, how does it become neceſſary to ſupply his place at the Board? His appointment muſt diminiſh their labours, not add to them.

The Dinagepore Council, which, in conſequence of the collectorſhips detached from it in favour of Mr. Purling and Mr. Gladwin, has ſtill leſs to do than even that of Burdwan, is now to be continued with two ſupernumeraries, and this is to be done in favour of Mr. Willoughby Leigh, whoſe pretenſions or ſervices I never heard of.—In ſhort, I look upon all theſe appointments as ſo many penſions given to individuals at the Company's expence, and without the poſſibility of doing the Company any ſervice.

Mr. Barwell.

I vote for all the arrangements.—Mr. Keating is a ſervant of 14 years ſtanding, who, by the annihilation of his office of Mint Maſter of Moorſhedabad, is placed in a very particular ſituation, ſimilar in a great degree to Mr. Anderſon, promoted merely under the ſame circumſtances, on the annihilation of his office, an additional Member to the Patna Council.

With reſpect to the propoſed addition to the Council of Burdwan, if the records are inſpected, I believe it will be found, that ever ſince it has been a Council, the frontier province of Midnapore has never been ſix months without a Reſident.—A province thus circumſtanced, is

in

in fact a reſidency for a Member of the Council of Burdwan, and being ſo, it in fact reduces the number of Members to four.—The Company's orders are expreſsly that there ſhall be five Members at leaſt to a Council. Conſiſtent to theſe orders, another Member ought to be appointed to Burdwan. However, if the continuing the Reſidency of Midnapore under a Member of the Council of Burdwan is objectional, the importance of the truſt, it being a frontier province, may poſſibly be judged of weight to make it render the reſponſibility more pointed, by ſeparating it from Burdwan, and rendering it dependant only on the Government here.

In anſwer to the objections made to continuing the appointment of the Council of Dinagepore to the number five, I can only remark upon it, that it is conſiſtent with the orders of the Company that every Council ſhall conſiſt of five. Reſidents dependent upon it cannot be ſaid to be a part of the deliberative Council: their continual ſeparation from it by a local reſidence, makes it no more than an honorary nomination to the Gentlemen who are reſidents. Determined by theſe reaſons, my aſſent to the arrangements has been given.

Mr. Francis.

From the preceding arrangements it would follow, that if every ſingle diſtrict of a zilla ſhould be allotted to a ſeparate reſident, a deliberative Council ſhould ſtill exiſt, without a charge, or without any object for their deliberation.

Governor General.

The expreſſions of the two firſt of the preceding minutes are very ſtrong. I ſhall leave it to Mr. Wheler's own reflections to decide, nor ſhall I deſire that deciſion to paſs his own breaſt, whether, ſince his firſt arrival, or, I may ſay, ſince his approach, I have been at any time deficient in allowing him the rights of civility or of reſpect: or whether I have received from him the return that was due, either to my public character or perſonal behaviour. I am ſorry that he has added to the liſt of reproaches contained in his minute, ſomething at leaſt like the imputation of want of decency. Mr. Francis has on his part declared, in very plain terms, that he looks upon all theſe appointments as ſo many penſions given to individuals at the Company's expence, and without poſſibility of doing the Company any ſervice.

Objections like the preceding might be anſwered with much perſonal warmth and perſonal altercation. I might indeed aſk, and the queſtion would be both official and to the point, whether in all the appointments, which were made during the time in which a different line of intereſt ruled this Board, and which were generally ſuppoſed to be dictated by Mr. Francis, my choice was ever conſulted in one ſingle inſtance; or whether rank in the ſervice, or the merits of fidelity to the Company, or of ſuperior talents, were attended to in the ſelections which was made of perſons from every order of the ſervice to fill the moſt important truſt of it?

With reſpect to the preſent motions, I do not know that it was neceſſary, on any conſideration, to have conſulted the Members of the Board upon the nomination to the ſeveral vacant appointments. I believe the ancient rule and practice of the ſervice was, for the different candidates to make their private applications to the Preſident and every Member of the Board individually. The Members of the Board never thought it, I believe, too great a condeſcenſion to expreſs their particular wiſhes in favour of any to the Preſident; but the recommendation proceeded invariably from him, in form, to the Board; and the inſtances were very rare of ſuch being over-ruled. If theſe, minutes ſhall ever be read in England, I ſhall deſire to appeal to the knowledge of thoſe gentlemen who are now there, and who have formerly at any time filled the different ſeats of council during the late Government.

As for myſelf, I have never propoſed the nomination of any perſon to fill a vacant office, but with reluctance. I think I have generally, always, I believe, but in caſes of certain differences, left my own recommendations entirely free for every Member of the Board to make his objection, and on ſome occaſions have withdrawn them on objections made by a ſingle Member. The preſent is a ſingular inſtance, a neceſſary and indiſpenſable act of juſtice, into which I have been gradually led by the ſentiments of all the members of this Board unanimouſly expreſſed; and in which they will excuſe me, if I ſay I think I have been deſerted, and, beſides the popular odium conſequent of ſuch an act, the whole reſponſibility thrown on me and Mr Barwell has made it neceſſary for me to conſult his judgment and inclinations alone, in the arrangements which were neceſſarily

ceſſarily connected with it. Perhaps thoſe who are to be the judges of all our differences will think this apology unneceſſary, and would be more ready in their hearts to cenſure me, under the preſent ſtate of the Government, if I had parted with any degree of the legal and conſtitutional power which I poſſeſs, and ſuffer the effects of it to be diverted into other channels.

Mr. Francis.

My objections to the ſeveral appointments propoſed this day were ſuch as I apprehend my ſtation entitled me to make to them. The Court of Directors will judge of their validity. Such as they are, I apprehend the Governor General's anſwers do not apply to them. I do not complain, that meaſures of perſonal form and attention are not obſerved to me. I do not complain that the Governor General conſults only Mr. Barwell's inclinations or his own in the diſpoſal of employments. On the contrary, I generally acquieſce in the Governor General's recommendations; at leaſt, I never object to them on that ground.

My objection is not generally to this mode of diſpoſing of employments when they become vacant, but to the creation of new offices without uſe or neceſſity. Has it been ſhewn that there is any uſe or neceſſity for the appointment of ſeven Members for the council of Dinagepore, or of ſix for that of Patna, or of ſix for that of Burdwan. Until the affirmative is proved, my objection remains in force. With reſpect to the influence the Governor General ſuppoſes me to have poſſeſſed in former times, it is a point that will not admit of explanation. If it did, I could very eaſily ſatisfy him that my influence was neither excluſive nor predominant in the degree he apprehends.

To his ſecond queſtion I may ſafely anſwer, that the late majority never diſpoſed of a place to any perſon, of whoſe honour they were not throughly ſatisfied, and whoſe abilities they did not think adequate to the truſt. I ſhall purſue this unpleaſant argument no further; the ſhare I have taken in it was unavoidable.

Governor General.

My minute was intended for an anſwer only to thoſe points which Mr. Barwell had left unnoticed, and to his minute I referred to a full reply. I ſhall beg leave to add a word or two more, not of controverſy, but of perſonal juſtice, if I may ſo expreſs myſelf.

It may naturally occur to thoſe who may read theſe minutes, and are unacquainted with the authors of them, that all the preceding appointments have been confined to perſons in very near connections with Mr. Barwell and myſelf. Mr. Golding is perſonally but very little known to either, but his character is univerſally known.

An unexampled gentleneſs and moderation of temper, and a perfect knowledge of the buſineſs of the collections, were the qualifications which recommended him to my choice.—Mr. Anderſon is better known to me; but I know only by his official character, and the conſequences of it.

Mr. Evelyn is known to me by his public character only; and I believe I may aſcribe to myſelf on that ſcore only an equal ſhare, at leaſt, with Mr. Barwell in the preference given to him.—Mr. Vanſittart might perhaps have an equal claim to my regard from his intrinſic merits; but I ſhall not aſcribe my ſelections to that conſideration alone.—I ſhall not follow the liſt any further.

Mr. Wheler.

No part of the minute has an alluſion to the common occurrences of life; nor do I think it can properly bear ſuch conſtruction. Any civilities which I have received from the Governor General in his private capacity, I ſhall be very ready to acknowledge; but, as no individual can be conſidered as a proper or impartial judge of his conduct, the Governor General alone muſt determine, whether I have, or have not, been deficient in making a proper return to them. My complaint is of a public nature; of a liſt of appointments being hurried on, without a ſufficient time allowed for each Member of the Board to weigh the claims and merits of the ſeveral candidates.—I did not expect to be conſulted, nor had I any perſon to recommend;—neither did I wiſh to infringe upon the perogative of the Governor General: But I did, and ſtill wiſh to pre-

vent this or any other Board, where I have a voice, from being taken by ſurprize; and, in order to prevent the like in future, I beg leave to conclude this queſtion with the following motion:

That in all future vacancies or promotions, the ſame ſhall be declared at the Board by the Governor General, but not filled up until days after the names of the candidates for ſuch vacancies or promotions ſhall have been mentioned.

Mr. Francis.

I agree.

Mr. Barwell.

I confeſs the neceſſity of this motion does not immediately ſtrike me. It implies that the vacancies which have been invariably filled till the preſent period, have not been known till the time of filling them. This I believe has ſcarcely ever been the caſe. The vacancies occaſioned by the diſmiſſion of the Calcutta Committee were known on Friday laſt, and they were not propoſed to be filled up till four days afterwards; and I believe the Governor General objected to an immediate nomination. The vacancy at Burdwan filled by Mr. Taylor was open for ſome days.

The chiefſhip of the ſaid council did likewiſe remain unfilled long after Mr. Higginſon's call to a ſeat at the Board of Trade was known to every Member of the Government. As the motion implies a contradiction almoſt to the invariable uſage, by a formal vote for the exiſtence of ſuch uſage, I think it neceſſary to put the previous queſtion, to quaſh it as unneceſſary.

Mr. Francis.

The motion propoſes two objects; that the Board ſhould be formally apprized of the exiſtence of vacancies, and alſo the names of the perſons who are candidates, or who may be recommended by the Governor to ſucceed them.

In ſome inſtance the vacancies of offices are unavoidably made known to us by public report, or by events that come directly within our perſonal knowledge. In others it may happen that the Board may know nothing of the vacancy until the moment it is filled. How is it poſſible, for example, that ſhould I know that there were to be two vacancies in the Council of Patna this day? If I had known it, it is probable I ſhould have come prepared to have ſupported the pretenſions of other candidates in oppoſition to their competitors. This I conceive to be an anſwer to Mr. Barwell's objection. I am therefore againſt his previous queſtion, and adhere to the original motion.

Mr. Barwell.

I adhere to my motion for a previous queſtion. Mr. Francis juſtly obſerves, he could not know there would be two vacancies in the Council of Patna; but this is no contradiction to my aſſertion, that he knew there were five vacancies in the Calcutta Committee. If by the removal of two Members of another council, the numbers of vacancies in the Calcutta Committee is reduced by two, it muſt encreaſe in the ſame numbers in other Provincial Councils. My aſſertion is, that there were five new Provincial Councillors to be appointed; and five only are appointed; viz. Meſſrs. Bright and Keating to Patna, Meſſrs. Evelyn, Vanſittart, and Cator, to the Calcutta Committee.

Governor General.

I have no objection to the rule, and mean to abide by it; but I think it unneceſſary to make it a rule, and irregular to paſs an act which is to be binding on ourſelves alone, and no more binding than we chooſe to let it be. ſince the Board at any one meeting may, if it pleaſe, reſolve on a total repeal of it, or a temporary exception to it. I think the rule a good one, but was it adopted, I conceive that in every inſtance in which the Board were unanimous, they will all agree to break through it; and I can mention one ſtrong inducement which they would always feel to prevent queſtions of this kind from remaining in ſuſpence—The continual proſecution of importunity.

I muſt

I muſt therefore beg leave to ſecond Mr. Barwell's queſtion, but ſtill with as hearty an inclination as any other Member of the Board to give real effect to the firſt queſtion before it.

Mr. Francis.

I accept to the Governor General's preſent declaration, as equivalent in its effects to the rule propoſed.

Mr. Wheler.

Admitting of what Mr. Barwell has ſaid, it ſtill remains a fact, that the names of the Gentlemen appointed this day to the different vacancies, were not known to the Members of the Board in the light of candidates, until they were mentioned as ſuch by the Governor General early in our proceedings. The objections ſtarted by the Governor General to my queſtion, operate equally ſtrong againſt every rule that has or ſhall hereafter be laid down, for the Government of this or any other public Board. I am, for theſe reaſons, againſt the previous queſtion.

Reſolved in favour of the previous queſtion.

Reſolved, That Meſſrs. Bright and Keating be appointed Members of the Provincial Council of Patna, in the room of Meſſrs. Golding and Anderſon removed.

Reſolved, That Mr. M'Dowall be appointed a ſupernumerary Member of the Provincial Council of Burdwan.

Reſolved, That Mr. Willoughby Legh be appointed a Member of the Provincial Council of Dinagepore, in the room of the late Mr. Gunning.

Reſolved, That the following letters be accordingly written to the Provincial Councils of Patna, Burdwan, and Dinagepore.

To Mr. Ewan Law, Chief, &c. Provincial Council of Patna.

Gentlemen,

We have this day thought proper to appoint Mr. Edward Golding Preſident of the Committee of Revenue for the diviſion of Calcutta, and Mr. David Anderſon to a ſeat in that Committee. We therefore direct, that theſe Gentlemen do proceed to the Preſidency with all convenient expedition.

In conſequence of the vacancies occaſioned in your Board by the removal of Meſſrs. Golding and Anderſon, we have appointed Meſſrs George Bright and Chriſ. Keating Members of your Board.

We are, &c.

Fort William,
20th October, 1778.

To

To Mr. William Marriott, Chief, &c. Provincial Council of Burdwan.

Gentlemen,

We have this day appointed Mr. Day Hort M'Dowall a ſupernumerary Member of your Board.

We are, &c.

Fort William,
20th October 1778.

To Mr. William Harwood, Chief, &c. Provincial Council of Dinagepore.

Gentlemen,

We have this day appointed Mr. Willoughby Legh a Member of your Board, in the room of Mr. Matthew Gunning, deceaſed.

We are, &c.

Fort William,
the 20th October, 1778.

Read the following letter from the Superintendant of the Khalſa records.

To the Honourable Warren Haſtings, Eſq. Governor General, &c. Council of Revenue in Fort William.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

I have had the honour to receive your Secretary's letter, under date the 16th inſtant, acquainting me, that you have thought proper to diveſt the Committee of Revenue for the diviſion of Calcutta of the truſt repoſed in them, as Preſident and Members of that Committee, and have iſſued orders to the Committee to deliver over charge of their department to me, as Superintendant of the Khalſa records.

I have the honour to acquaint you, that I yeſterday received charge of the Calcutta diviſion, in conformity to the above order, and that the balance in the general and running Treaſury appears to be rupees 1,48,073. 13. 16. 3.

It appearing to me neceſſary, for conducting the buſineſs of this department, that I ſhould make uſe of the ſervices of the Gentlemen and Officers heretofore employed under the Committee, I have accordingly requeſted their aſſiſtance, and that they will continue to attend to the duties of their reſpective offices as under the Committee; which I hope will meet with your approbation.

I ſhall immediately proceed to execute the ſeveral orders contained in the above letter of your Secretary; and have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) G. G. DUCARAL,

Khalſa,
20th October, 1778.

Sup[t] Khalſa Records.

Ordered,

Ordered, That the Superintendant be informed, that the Board approve of his making uſe of the ſervices of the officers heretofore employed under the Calcutta Committee.

EXTRACT of Bengal Revenue Conſultations, the 19th January, 1779.

Governor General.

The diſtrict of Huſſypore has been for ſome years paſt expoſed to the annual ravages of Futty Saw, the expelled Zemindar; and the deſultory means which have been uſed to repel this outlaw have hitherto produced no effect, but have been attended with much bloodſhed, and ſome diſcredit to our arms. Huſſypore forms a part of the diſtrict which was formerly united in the Collectorſhip of Sircar Sarun, under the ſuperintendancy of Mr. Golding.

The following is an acconnt of the receipts of revenue from this diſtrict for the laſt ten years, that is to ſay, from 1176 to the year 1185, incluſive. I believe the collections of Huſſypore are not included in the ſum ſtated to have been collected from Sircar Sarun in the yean 1185, being 7,16,364. —. 5. The collections of Huſſypore for that year ſhould therefore be added, being 74,280. 8. which will make the whole ſum of the collections 7,90,644. 8. 5. I deſire the Secretary to aſcertain this fact. Mr. Golding was recalled at the end of the year 1181. Mr. Peiarce ſucceeded him, but was likewiſe removed a very ſhort time after. From this account, it will appear, that the revenue of the diſtrict has declined very conſiderably, which I attribute, in a great degree, to the preceding cauſe, and to the want of that vigour in the preſent Superintendancy, which perhaps can only be given to it by the appointment of an Engliſh Reſident. The diſtrict conſiſts of many petty Zemindaries; it lies at a great diſtance from the ſeat of the Provincial Council, on the borders of the moſt uncultivated part of the dominions of the Nabob of Oude: I therefore move, that the opinions of this Board be taken, whether it be not expedient to place the immediate management of this diſtrict, comprehending Sircar Sarun, and Sircar Chaneparun, and its revenues, under the charge of a Company's covenanted ſervant, and to ſeparate it from the Superintendancy of the Provincial Council of Patna.

ACCOUNT of the Receipts of Revenue from Sircar Saurun, and Sircar Champarun, for 10 Years; viz. from the Behar Year 1176 to 1185, inclusive.

	Sircar Saurun.	Sircar Champarun.
1176 —	7,11,964 9 5	— 2,61,591 12 10
1177 —	7,01,857 10 5	— 1,77,752 4 —
1178 —	8,69,584 15 10	— 1,70,133 5 5
1179 —	9,00,288 — 5	— 1,28,185 11 15
1180 —	8,99,309 2 5	— 1,49,347 4 5
1181 —	8,74,804 11 —	— 1,37,624 2 10
1182 —	8,50,973 8 10	— 1,37,624 2 10
1183 —	8,62,486 1 10	— 1,42,624 2 10
1184 —	8,52,965 6 5	— 1,47,624 2 10
1185 —	7,16,364 — 5	— 1,52,624 2 10
Sonat rupees —	82,40,591 1 —	— 16,05,131 2 5

Errors excepted.

(Signed) RICHARD JOHNSON,
Depy Acct.

Fort William,
the 9th January, 1779.

Mr. Francis.

It does not appear to me, that the facts support the propoſition. In Sircar Champarun the collections of the laſt year exceed thoſe of the preceding one by 5000 rupees, and thoſe of the preceding ſeven by 7,886. 10. 15, at a medium. In Sircar Sarun, the collections of 1185 exceed thoſe of 1176 and 1177 by about 85,000 rupees at a medium. It is true, the collections of 1185 are leſs than thoſe of 1184 by about 60,000 rupees; but if the jumma of the laſt year was lower, which I believe was the caſe, it proves no defect in the preſent Collectors, nor is it any ground for removing them from their truſt.—But I ſhall go a little farther, and more generally into the ſubject. It appears to me, that every particular arrangement of this kind is a partial invaſion of the ſyſtem of Provincial Conncils, and that it can anſwer no purpoſe but the ſervice or gratification of ſome individual; I object to it therefore as *partial*. I object to it alſo as unſeaſonable, and particularly improper at this time, when our Government itſelf is in ſuſpenſe, when the period of its expiration is approaching, when a new Act of Parliament is probably paſſed, and may be ſhortly expected, and when we have ſo much reaſon to preſume that a general change of ſyſtem, or at leaſt a change of hands, is determined at home. For my part, I ſhall never conſider myſelf as bound, at a future day, by any acts of a mere majority, done at ſuch a ſeaſon, unleſs they are ſuch as the public ſervice indiſpenſably requires: nor will I, if it be in my power, ſuffer any partial arrangements, made now, to interfere with, or diſtreſs the execution of thoſe general meaſures which I have always recommended as *general*; and which, I have many reaſons to think, the ſucceeding Government will be authorized, if not directly inſtructed, to adopt. For the preſent operation of the motion, I muſt ſubmit to the power of the majority.

Mr,

Mr. Wheler.

It appears from the account of the receipts of revenue from Sircar Sarun, that the receipts of the firſt five years were only 40,83,004. 5. 10; whereas the receipts of the laſt five years are 41,72,449. 12. 5; conſequently the arguments now made uſe of in favour of the appointment of a Collector to Sircar Sarun cannot ariſe from a deficiency in that diſtrict. The receipts from Sircar Champarun for the firſt five years amount to 8,87,010. 5. 15; and the receipts of the laſt five years to 7,18,120. 12. 10; which making upon the whole a difference between the firſt and laſt five years of the account of only 1,68,889. 9. 5. will not, in my opinion, juſtify the alteration now propoſed; as even this ſum is not all a balance, if the laſt year's jumma has been lowered. I am therefore againſt the queſtion.

Mr. Barwell.

I do not know whether it would not prove of advantage to the public ſervice, if it became a general rule, when any large portion of land diminiſhed from the original ſtandard of its revenue, to depute inſtantly a collector into the diſtrict. In the year 1185, Mr. Francis admits the revenue collected to be ſhort, in compariſon with the preceding year. To me it is ſufficient to warrant the propoſition, and upon this ground I give my aſſent to it.

Governor General.

I ſhall not combat the reality of Mr. Francis's objection.—The preſent ſtate of this Government is ſuch as requires temporary expedients, and the union of private intereſts with the public. It is a ſufficient ground for me, that the collections made from Sircar Sarun in the laſt years were leſs than the ſum realized by Mr. Golding in the laſt year of his collectorſhip, by more than 84,000 rupees. I am morally certain that the diſtrict is capable of yielding as large a ſum as has been in any year received from it, ſince it has been in our poſſeſſion. I can truſt to the integrity and abilities of the perſon whom I mean to propoſe for this truſt for my juſtification; and to that iſſue I ſhall refer the propriety of the meaſure.

I ſhall not deſcend to a more minute detail of arguments, but proceed to the ſubſequent and pending queſtion—I move that Mr. Græme be appointed Collector of the diſtricts of Sircar Sarun and Champarun.

Mr. Wheler.

I have objected to the meaſure, but have no objection to the Governor's nomination of the man.

Mr. Francis.

I object to it, becauſe, admitting the meaſure to be adviſeable, I think it is an unmerited ſlight to the Gentlemen in the Patna Council, and indeed to all the Company's ſervants in the revenue line, who might have pretenſions to ſuch an office, to give it to a Gentleman who has been ſo many years confined to the Commercial Department; at the ſame time I do not mean to ſay or intimate any thing perſonally to the diſadvantage of Mr. Græme.

Mr. Barwell.

I agree to the motion.

Reſolved, That the diſtricts of Huſſypore, Sircar Sarun, and Sircar Champarun, be ſeparated from the ſuperintendancy of the Provincial Council of Patna, and placed under the immediate management of a Company's ſervant.

Reſolved, That Mr. Charles Græme be appointed Collector of theſe diſtricts.

Ordered, That the Secretary do adviſe Mr. Græme of his appointment.—And,

Agreed,

Agreed, That the following letter be written to the Provincial Council of Patna.

To Mr Ewan Law, Chief, &c. Provincial Council of Patna.

Gentlemen,

We have thought it expedient to separate the diſtricts of Huſſypore, Sircar Sarun, and Sircar Champarun, from the ſuperintendancy of your Board, and to place them under the immediate management of Mr. Charles Græme, whom we have appointed Collector. You will therefore deliver over charge of theſe diſtricts to that Gentleman.

Fort William,
19th January 1779.

We are, &c.

Agreed alſo, That the following Letter be written to the Board of Trade.

To P. M. Dacres, Eſquire, Preſident, &c. Members of the Board of Trade.

Gentlemen,

Having occaſion for the ſervices of Mr. Charles Græme, we requeſt you will be pleaſed to releaſe him from your department.

Fort William,
19th January 1779.

We are, &c.

EXTRACT of Bengal Revenue Conſultations, the 26th March, 1779.

Sir Eyre Coote requeſts that he may be allowed the ſervices of Mr. Vanſittart, as his Perſian interpreter; and begs leave to recommend that Mr. Thomas Law may be nominated to a ſeat in the Provincial Council of Calcutta, in the room of Mr. Vanſittart; it having been his intention to offer the appointment of Perſian Interpreter to Mr. Law, had not Mr. Vanſittart accepted of it.

Agreed. That Sir Eyre Coote be allowed the ſervices of Mr. Vanſittart, as his Perſian Interpreter; and that Mr. Thomas Law be appointed to the vacant ſeat in the Provincial Council of Calcutta, in the room of Mr. Vanſittart.

The Governor General reports, that there is another vacancy in the Provincial Council of Calcutta, by the departure of Mr. Golding, the late Chief; and begs leave to recommend that it be filled by Mr. Henry Richardſon, now Aſſiſtant to the Provincial Council of Patna.

Sir Eyre Coote.

I have no objection.

Mr. Wheler.

I agree.

Mr.

Mr. Francis.

I have a general objection to increaſing the number of Members beyond the original inſtitution, but otherwiſe none to Mr. Richardſon's appointment.

Mr. Barwell.

I agree.

Agreed, That Mr. Richardſon be accordingly appointed a Member of the Provincial Council of Calcutta, in the room of Mr. Golding.——And,

---

Agreed, That the following Letter be written to the Provincial Council of Calcutta.

To Mr. David Anderſon, Chief, &c. Provincial Council for the Diviſion of Calcutta.

Gentlemen,

We have this day thought proper to appoint Meſſrs. Henry Richardſon and Thomas Law, Members of your Board, in the room of Mr. Golding, your late Chief, and Mr. Vanſittart, who has been removed.

Fort William,
26th March 1776.

We are, &c.

Agreed, That the Provincial Council of Patna be alſo written to as follows:

To Mr. Ewan Law, Chief, &c. Provincial Council of Patna.

Gentlemen,

This ſerves to adviſe you that we have thought proper to remove Meſſrs. Henry Richardſon and Thomas Law, from the offices of Aſſiſtants to your Board, and to require their ſervices at the Preſidency.

Fort William,
26th March 1779.

We are, &c.

EXTRACT of Bengal Revenue Conſultations, 7th March 1785.

EXTRACT of Mr. Haſtings's Remarks on Mr. Francis's propoſed Inſtructions to the Provincial Councils.

3d. TO let the farms at auction—this I diſapprove. I have tried this expedient, and have found it unſucceſsful; becauſe the competitors are piqued to outbid the value of the farms, which too generally fall by this way into the hands of deſperate or knaviſh adventurers.

EXTRACT of Bengal Revenue Conſultations, the 17th March, 1775, relative to the Farms held or relinquiſhed by Cantoo Baboo.

EXTRACT of Bengal Revenue Conſultations, the 17th March 1775.

THE Secretary lays before the Board, the liſt or ſtatement of the farms held by Cauntoo Baboo, as taken from the Khalſa records.

PERGUNNAHS

PERGUNNAHS.	IZARDAR.	TALOOCKDAR.	MAHABZAMIN.	Year 1179 to April 1773.	Year 1180 to April 1774.	Year 1181 to April 1775.	Year 1182 to April 1776.	Year 1183 to April 1777.
Taharpoor, Caufheepoor, Manhore — Moorſhedabad	Loacknaut Nundee	-	-	10,585 1 12 0	40,760 1 12 0	10,935 1 12 0	11,110 1 12 0	11,285 1 12 0
	Ditto	-	-	9,385 8 4 2	9,385 8 4 2	10,46 8 4 2	11 115 8 4 2	11,765 8 4 2
	-	-	Loacknut Nundee	10,622 1 14 3	1,822 4 14 3	11,022 1 14 3	11,222 1 14 3	11,422 1 14 3
Cauntoonagur — Province of Council of Calcutta	-	Loacknaut Nundee	-	42,066 10 15 3	41,066 10 15 3	41,066 10 15 3	42,066 10 15 3	41,066 10 15 3
Jekarhatte	-	-	Raha Gobind	5,723 7 9 2	5,723 7 9 2	5,825 7 9 2	5,907 7 9 2	6,000 0 0 0
Shomoſhkhannee	-	-	Ditto	4,473 2 5 1	4,473 2 5 1	4,473 2 5 1	4,473 2 5 3	4,473 2 5 1
Cootubpoor Cheeta Midnapore	-	-	Kiffenſaun Baboo	2,57,546 0 13 0	2,61,558 5 3 0	2,66,934 11 3 0	2,70,960 15 3 0	2,76,343 6 8 0
Jheangueerpoor Moorſhedabad	Bomaab Churn Nundee	-	-	1,70,857 22 17 3	1,73,357 12 17 3	1,75,857 12 17 3	1,78,357 12 17 3	1,80,857 12 17 3
Coolbarreah, Calcutta	Ditto	-	-	21,952 3 6 2	22,853 3 6 2	23,452 3 6 2	24,452 3 6 2	24,452 3 6 2
Aumarabad	Ditto	-	-	36,427 6 0 0	37,577 6 0 0	39,027 6 0 0	40,477 6 0 0	42,001 0 0 0
Chunkhally	Ditto	-	-	22,047 3 6 2	22,747 3 6 2	23,447 3 6 2	24,147 3 6 2	24,147 3 6 2
Bhaubund, Dinagepore	Ditto	-	-	97,802 8 0 0	97,803 8 2 0	1,95,393 8 0 0	1,12,804 4 8 0	1,23,575 3 5 0
Shaufhokeah, Calcutta	Ditto	-	-	41,798 4 0 0	42,798 4 0 0	43,798 4 8 0	44,798 4 0 0	45,79 4 0 0 0
Hattendah	Ditto	-	-	40,852 1 14 3	42,102 1 14 3	43,352 1 14 3	44,602 1 14 3	45,852 1 14 2
Bhiſnopoor, Burdwan	Ram Coony &c.	-	Kiſhanund Sircar	4,52,850 15 11 0	4,52,850 15 11 0	4,52,850 15 11 0	4,52,850 15 11 0	4,52,850 15 11 0
Patchet	Ditto	-	-	1,09,945 5 9 0	1,09,945 5 9 0	1,09,945 5 9 0	1,09,945 5 9 0	1,09,945 5 9 0
				13,33,664 12 18 1	13,46,152 1 10 1	13,67,796 7 10 1	13,88,346 11 10 1	14,11,885 1 0 3
Deduct Cootubpoor	*Quised* 1180, in the month of Augun			-	-	2,66,934 11 3 0	2,70,966 15 3 0	2,76,343 6 8 0
Bhiſnopoor	Ditto 1181, firſt Byſaack			-	-	4,52,850 15 11 0	4,52,850 15 11 0	4,52,850 15 11 0
Patchet	Ditto — ditto			-	-	1,09,994 5 9 0	1,09,994 5 9 0	1,09,994 5 9 0
			Account of farms relinquiſhed			8,29,790 3 0 0	8,33,812 4 3 0	8,39,182 11 8 0
			Balance in their hands			5,38,006 7 7 1	5,54,534 7 7 1	5,72,696 5 12 0

The Board content themſelves at preſent with obſerving, upon this extraordinary account of the different farms in the different provinces of this country granted to Cauntoo Baboo, or for which he was joint ſecurity with the perſon or perſons who took the farms, that the united rent-roll of the firſt year was 13,33,664. 12. 18. 1; and that the rent-roll of the fifth, ending in April 1777, was fixed at 14,11,885. 1. 3; and that he was permitted to relinquiſh three of the farms at the end of the ſecond year, on which there was an increaſing rent.

The Board will endeavour to collect into one view, the reaſons that have been aſſigned by the late Adminiſtration for the extraordinary indulgence ſhewn to this man, together with the balances remaining due from him to Government, with all the reaſons that have been aſſigned for their liquidation, if they are already liquidated.

COPY

COPY of Petition from Coſſinaut Bamboo, entered on Bengal Revenue Conſultations, the 16th December 1777.

EXTRACT of Bengal Revenue Conſultations, the 16th December 1777.

READ the following Petition from Coſſinaut.

The humble Repreſentation and Petition of Coſſinaut Baboo.

Rajah Sunder Narain, Zemindar of the pergunnah of Coſſijurah, has defamed me in various ways, laying a demand againſt me for three or four lacks of rupees; he has complained to Mr. Peiarce, and delivered in a petition.

Dowlut Sing, my Naib, having ſubmitted to this Gentleman's inſpection copies of the Rajah's ahrarnama or covenant, and of the ſunuds under the Company's ſeal, which I am poſſeſſed of, he was pleaſed, on ſeeing theſe deeds, to grant a perwannah or order for the ſaid Dowlut Sing's continuing in the neabut, as formerly, and has tranſmitted to the Board at Burdwan the Rajah's petition, together with tranſcripts of my ſunnuds.

The Rajah in queſtion has, in the ſight of the Engliſh gentlemen, and to the view of the whole country, defamed me, by repreſenting that, conſidering me as his friend and protector, he had inveſted me with full authority in the affairs of the Zemindary, in return for which I am now, by intricate and complicated means, endeavouring to take his Zemindary from him. By his repreſentation, the Gentlemen, on inſpecting the ſunnuds under the Company's ſeal, together with the covenant of the Rajah, atteſted by his own ſeal, may have conceived that I have procured all theſe deeds to be drawn out by the ſame unfair means, and that I do now in fact want to take the Zemindary. To obviate this idea, I need only mention, that the Rajah being the ſon of my wife's brother, his intereſts is immediately connected with my own; and that this being the caſe, it is not in any manner conſiſtent with the ties of our affinity and relationſhip, that I ſhould conceive, as in fact I never have entertained any ſuch intention or idea; neither am I indeed at all deſirous of acquiring any perſon's Zemindary in this country; for if that had been my ambition, I might ſurely, when by the favour of the Engliſh gentlemen I was (as is well known) placed at the head of affairs, have poſſeſſed myſelf of the Zemindaries and Talooks of many people, in like manner as ſeveral Calcutta Mutſuddies have done, as is well known to you.

With reſpect to the claim or aſſertion laid againſt me by the Rajah, I never enterained ſuch ſiniſter thoughts or ideas. This depends entirely on accounts. In the Amly year 1179, in the time of Mr. Baber, I paid, on account of the balances of Coſſijurah, &c. for that year, the ſum of rupees 50,000; and the Gentleman, having, in the month of Phaugun of the Amly year 1180, concluded the ſettlement for five years, put this purgunnah into my hand, and granted me a ſunnud, inveſted me with full authority. Theſe, Roy Dowlut Sing, who was at this period ſent on my part into the diſtrict, having called upon the Rajah for the waſil baky, or account of the collections and balances of that year, found, on inſpection, that the country was not in an impoveriſhed, but, on the contrary, in a profitable condition; and that the Zemindar had collected, and himſelf ſpent the revenue, ſo that none remained to be realized in the Moffuſſil, excepting about 53,000 rupees, which he, the Zemindar, ſent to Midnapore. Accordingly, nearly about one lack of rupees remained in balance to Government; which amount I borrowed, and paid in full into the Khalſa Treaſury: Beſides which, I accounted for the amount of a bond of rupees 25,000, which Mr. Baber had taken from the Zemindar, for tuckavy, advanced to him by the company. Before the commencement of my management or authority in this purgunnah, the Zemindar had appropriated to himſelf one lack and about ſeventy-ſix thouſand rupees of the public revenue; the beſides which, in the Amly year 1181, the entire crop, throughout

throughout the whole country, was ruined by inundation, by which a great loſs was ſuſtained in the revenue, as well as by the flight of the Ryots. Yet, notwithſtanding this, in the view of bringing the country into cultivation, and ſecuring the revenue of Government, I retained the Ryots by encouragement, and paid up the revenues, by contracting debts for that purpoſe. I am now poſſeſſed of bonds due by the Rajah, to the amount of one lack eighty-two thouſand ſeven hundred and twenty-three rupees five annas (Rs 1,82,723. 5.) of principal money, beſides intereſt, the account particulars of which I have hereunto ſubjoined; upon examination into which, and into the papers and accounts, the whole buſineſs will be placed in a clear light before you, and the good effects of my conduct will be made ſufficiently apparent: and you will, I perſuade myſelf, after inſpecting the regulations, and referring to the ways of the Superior Council, cauſe payment to be made to me of the debts remaining due to me by the Zemindar, that being a requital which I have not the ſmalleſt doubts of obtaining from your juſtice.

The Zemindar having, however, endeavoured to prejudice my character in the eyes of the Engliſh, as well as in thoſe of the public in general, I deem it therefore incumbent on me to lay before you, gentlemen, the following ſtatement of circumſtances; and whenever you ſhall be pleaſed to favour me with a copy of the Rajah's repreſentations, and to call on me to reply to them, I will then deliver in my anſwer to them at length. I ſhall now only ſolicit your attention to the following circumſtances relative to thoſe good offices, and that aſſiſtance, which the Rajah has experienced at my hands. When Rajah Janarain, the elder brother of the preſent Rajah, was in poſſeſſion of the Zemindary, he kept the latter in ſuch durance, as to prevent his having the power of ſpeaking to any one. In the Amly year 1177, Rajenarain having for ſome time laboured under a mortal illneſs, was deſirous of ſecuring, during his own life-time to his ſon Juggot Narain (whom he had by a woman, a concubin) the ſucceſſion to the Zemindary: To this purpoſe, he wrote to many Mutſuddies at Midnapore, and deputed a perſon on his part, to procure a ſunnud for the Zemindary, in the name of Juggot Narain. About this time the ſaid Sunder Narrain, and his mother wrote ſecretly to me, acquainting me, that Rajenarain, wanted to eſtabliſh Juggot Narrain in the Zemindary, and intended, in his own mind, to put to death Sunder Narrain, who was then in confinement; that I was their maſter and protector, in which quality they entreated me to exert myſelf to preſerve their honour, as well as the life of Sunder Narrain. How ſhall I repreſent to you the lamentations which they moreover made to me, and the grief, ſorrow, and anxiety, which they then aſſerted to experience? Things being thus ſituated, I repreſented and ſet forth, in the ſtrongeſt terms, the ſituation of Sundernarain to Mr. Ruſſell, who was then Collector General: I likewiſe delivered in a petition, upon which Mr. Ruſſell incloſed it in a letter to Mr. Baber, directing care to be taken for their protection, and preſervation of Sunder Narain, whom he therein directed to be ſent down to Calcutta. Mr. Baber accordingly ſent ſecretly to Coſſijurah a ſuntabar, &c. and three ſhield men, to bring Sundernarain in ſafety to Midnapore; upon which they proceeded thither, and in the preſence of Rajenarain) in whoſe company Sundenarain was ſitting) they took the latter by the hand, and ſet out immediately for Midnapore. Rajenarain being then very ill, was obliged to throw himſelf into a fly palanquin, on which he inſtantly ſet out for Midnapore after Sundernarain, but died in two or three days after his arrival; of which circumſtance the Council having been informed by Mr. Baber, and I having laid before Mr. Ruſſell all the circumſtances of the caſe, this laſt gentleman communicated the whole to the Honourable Governor, who thereupon got an order of Council for a ſunnud to be granted to Sundernarain, and for his being honoured with a khelat, both which circumſtances were accordingly communicated to Mr. Baber, who having in conſequence beſtowed on Sundernarain a ſunnud and khelat, gave him leave to depart from Midnapore.

Sundernarain going firſt to Coſſijurah, came from thence with his grandmother and mother to me at Calcutta, upon which I got him introduced to the Governor General and to Mr. Ruſſell, had him honoured with a khelat, and preſented with a horſe, and then obtained leave for him to depart. When Sundnarain was going to his own pergunnah, his grandmother and mother deſired me to ſend ſome perſon capable of buſineſs along with their ſon, who might proceed thither and conduct affairs; to this Sundernarain replied, by ſaying, that he would himſelf carry on the buſineſs for 5 or 6 months, on which, if he was inadequate to their management, I ſhould then ſend ſomebody on my part.—But that if agreeable to the deſire of his mother and grandmother, I ſhould immediately appoint any perſon to the buſineſs of the pergunnah, he would go from his own into another country, or put a period to his own life. In conſequence of this, I did not ſend any body to manage the buſineſs of the pergunnah, but ſent him away, as he did not pay attention to the advice neither of his mother nor grandmother.

He (Sundernarain) thus contiued for two years, or during the Amly years 1178 and 9, to conduct affairs at his own diſcretion; during which time he made away with, in improper expences, to the amount of about one lack and fifty thouſand rupees (rupees 1,50,000) which Rajenarain had left at the time of his death, beſides which, he appropriated to his own uſes large ſums of the Company's revenue, by which means there remained in the Amly year 1179, a balance due by him to Government of about one lack of rupees; on this account he was much preſſed by Mr. Baber, who deputed a perſon of the name of Baluram, as Amil to the cutcherry of Pertabpoor in Coſſijurah, in order there to take the accounts of the jumma and land, and of the collections, and alſo to ſequeſter the effects of the Rajah: The Amil, on his arrival at the cutcherry, ſeized on and brought the Rajah to it, where he kept him in confinement for about a fortnight, threatening and diſhonouring him to the higheſt degree; he moreover ſeized on and detained at the cutcherry the elephants and horſes, &c. of Sundernarain, and in conſequence repreſented all theſe circumſtances to the Governor (Mr. Haſtings); beſides which, Mr. Baber is likewiſe fully acquainted with the whole of this matter.

The ſaid Zemindar being thus reduced to the greateſt diſtreſs, ſent his mother to me at Calcutta, who warmly intreated me to take charge of the Zemindary, as did alſo Sundernaram, by repeated letters, conceived in the ſtrongeſt terms and expreſſions.

His mother repeatedly repreſented and urged to me, that I was the perſon who delivered Sundernarain from the durance he was held in by Rajenarain, who had ſaved his life and character, and been the means of eſtabliſhing him in the Zemindary: That Sundernarain, careleſsly, and impelled by the fire of youth, had, at the inſtigation of low and inſiduous ſycophants, expended his money in improper uſes: That in conſequence, the ill effects of not paying the Government's revenue were now impending over him; and that the balances he was owing might be the means of his being deprived of his Zemindary: She therefore requeſted I would get Mr. Baber to allow me to take upon myſelf the charge of the Zemindary, giving them only the mere neceſſaries of life, however indifferent, and deſiring me to act as I might think beſt, for the preſervation of the Zemindary.

As I am very well acquainted with the faithleſſneſs of Zemindars, that they have no other object but their own intereſt; and that no dependance can be placed either in their words or actions, being always on the watch for their opportunity, when to accompliſh their purpoſes; the father will not ſpare the ſon, nor the ſon the father; I therefore give a flat denial to all the entreaties and propoſals from the mother of Sundernarain, telling her, that I would have no connection with the affairs of the Zemindary, that being a thing to which I could by no means agree; but that, notwithſtanding, as the Zemindary of Caſſijurah was the hereditary country of my wife's father, I would, in conſideration of our affinity and relationſhip, not ſcruple to give on honour 20,000 rupees, if they were wanted: Notwithſtanding this, my refuſal, ſhe continued two months in Calcutta, in order to engage me to take care of the Zemindary, and was conſtantly moleſting me on the ſubject; by which means I was at length reduced, in a manner againſt my will, to the neceſſity of conſenting, putting a confidence in their honour, and taking ſo into conſideration the near relation in which we ſtood to each other.

Still, however, reflecting on the nature of Zemindars, who diſregard and throw aſide all ties of blood or affinity, and are incapable of any gratitude for benefits conferred on them, which they ever requite by the worſt offices, I therefore thought it neceſſary, before I entered upon the charge, to take from the Zemindar authentic agreements and written deeds; of all which I acquainted Mr. Baber, who happened at this period to be at Calcutta. This Gentleman having agreed to and approved of this, carried with him to Midnapore Gocul Sircar, my Gomaſtah, and iſſued a perwannah, inveſting me with the management of Coſſijurah, agreeable to which he took from the ſaid Sircar a cabooleat in writing. I accordingly diſpatched the kiſt of 36,000 rupees, which was paid into the revenue there. Hereupon my Agent applied for the recall of the Collector, who had been ſent on the part of Mr. Baber; but this gentleman ordered that he ſhould continue in the Mofuſſil; to which the Agent replied, by complaining, that although the Zemindary had been given in charge to me, his conſtituent, yet he was not truſted; he therefore demanded that the revenue that had been already paid in ſhould be refunded: But neither this, nor the recall of the Taſhildar or Collector, was agreed to; all of which I repreſented to the Honourable the Governor (Mr. Haſtings) and preſented a petition; but he happened juſt about this time to ſet out for Moorſhedabad, from which place, having returned to Calcutta, he made the five years ſettlement for Midnapore and Jellaſore; at which time Sundernarain ſent down to Calcutta his Gomaſtah, Mahtab Roy, who agreed

agreed to the ſettlement of the council, to which he gave me as ſecurity, and ſent word to me accordingly; but as I was then incapable of moving, from the effects of a fall which I had from my horſe, and was helpleſs, and therefore gave a writing in my ſon's name, Baba Gopinaut, for the ſecurityſhip; and as I was not fully ſatisfied with tenor of the agreements entered into by the Rajah, I therefore preſented a paper of requeſts, ſetting forth, that, although the Rajah had inveſted me in writing with the management of his Zemindary, yet unleſs I received a ſunnud from Government, I cou'd not be quite eaſy; and I therefore prayed that a ſunnud might be granted to me, in conformity to the Zemindar's agreements. Such a ſunnud was accordingly beſtowed upon me (a copy thereof is now delivered in) and I delivered in to the Roy Royan the ſecurity of my ſon Gopinaut; who moreover preſented a petition, requeſting to know in what manner he was to pay the balances, in caſe any ſhould eventually happen; upon which the ſuperintendant of the Khalſa gave to him, under the Khalſa ſeal, the regulations of the council to the following purport. *That the liquidation of the demands on the Zemindar, through the channel of the ſecurity, ſhould be effected by the prudence of the ſale of the Zemindary.* Having thus procured the Government's ſunnud, and the regulations of the Council, our minds were at reſt, and Roy Dowlut Sing, was ſent on our part to ſuperintend the ſettlement, and the cultivation and improvement of the country; and by contracting debts we were able to pay into the Khalſa treaſury the whole of the revenue without balance, for the Amly years 1180 and 1181.

In the Bengal year 1182, the gentlemen having been pleaſed to ſeparate the country into diviſions the collections of Coſſijurah were from that period not paid at the Khalſa, but at Burdwan, where the revenue has been paid for three years; and for the firſt, it is two well known to render it neceſſary for me to relate the labour and efforts which I have made uſe of to promote Sundernarain's welfare, as well as what his buſineſs has produced to me; under which laſt head I may place the diſpleaſure of the gentlemen, which I have had the unhappineſs of incurring on this account.

Yet, notwithſtanding all my well-meant endeavours, and the trouble I have put myſelf to and experienced on this account, the only return he has made me has been by publickly defaming me in the eyes of the public. He has for theſe ſix months paſt ſtopped the collections, and neglected to account for the revenue, which he realizes in a private and indirect manner, and diſburſes it in unworthy expences.

Having repreſented all theſe circumſtances to the Honourable the Governor General, the Honourable Board having been pleaſed to ſend the following directions to the Council of Burdwan :—
" To ſend an Aumil to take the direct charge of the collections of Coſſijurah, ſuſpending the au-
" thority of the agents of the Rajah, and of the ſecurity, but not wholly diſpoſſeſſing them,
" until we ſhall have received your report and proceedings upon the ſubject of their mutual
" claims; in the mean time, as I know no proprietor of the Zemindary but the hereditary poſ-
" ſeſſor, we deſire that Mr. Peiarce will call upon the Rajah to execute the Cabooleat, and to
" deliver to him the Aumilnama, that he may enter upon the poſſeſſion of the lands, which will
" not preclude us from paſſing ſuch decree, upon the ſubject of any pretenſions which Coſſinaut
" may have upon the Rajah, when that cauſe ſnall come before us."

This order has been productive of much content and ſatisfaction to me, and I am now hopeful and pray that you will be pleaſed to cauſe to be paid to me, by Sundernarrain, whatever amount of bond debt he may, on enquiry, appear to be juſtly indebted to me in.

ACCOUNT

ACCOUNT of Monies due to Coſſinaut, by the Zemindar of Coſſijurah.

Principal Money due on Account of the Time of Sundernarrain, as follows; viz.

1181.			
To a bond of Sundernarrains, in the name of Jugmohun, dated 1ſt Sawun — — —	93,916 11 —		
To Do. Do. Coſſinaut, Do. Do. — — —	20,000 — —		
		1,13,916	5 —
1181.			
To Do. Do. Do. Do. 14th of Bhadon — — —		66,206	10 —
1184.			
To Do. Do. Do. Do. 16th of Jaite — —	500 — —		
To Do. Do. Do. Do. 20th of Aſſar — —	1,991 — —		
		2,491	— —
Total principal, on account of Rajenarrain — —		1,82,614	5 —
Principal money due on account of the time of Rajenarrain.			
1163.			
To a bond of Rajenarrain, dated the 11th of Byſaac —	18,162 — —		
1170.			
To Do. Do. Do. 25th of Phagun — —	4,001 — —		
1171.			
To Do. Do. Do. 1ſt Jait — — —	4,075 — —		
1172.			
To Do. Do. Do. 14th Aughun — —	3,422 — —		
Total principal, on account of Sundernarrain — —		29,730	— —
Total principal money, due on account both Zemindars —		2,12,344	5 —

INTEREST

INTEREST ACCOUNT on the foregoing Principal.

On Account of Sundernarrain's Money, *viz.*					
Intereſt on the amount of the two bonds of the year 1181, from the firſt of Sawſon, of that year, till 30th of Aſſin, 1184, being 3 years and 3 months, at 2 per cent. per Mo	88,854	14	—		
Intereſt on bond of 1182, from the 14th of Bhadun, till the 3d Aſſin, being for 2 years 17 days, at the above rate of intereſt	33,853	10	15		
Do. — on bond of 1184, from the 16th of Jaite to the 30th of Aſſin 1184, being 4 months 15 days, at the ſame rate of intereſt	45	—	—		
Do. — on 2 Do. from the 20th of Aſſar to the ſame period, and at ſame intereſt as the foregoing, being for 3 months 11 days	134	—	15		
Total intereſt on Sundernarrain's money	—		—	1,22,887	9 10
On Account of Rajenarrain's Money.					
Do. on bond of 1163, from the 11th of Byſaac 1163, to the 30th of Aſſin 1184, being for 21 years 5 months and 20 days, at the ſame intereſt as above	93,597	—	—		
Intereſt on bond of 1170, from the 25th of Phaugun 1170, to the ſame period, and at the ſame intereſt as the foregoing, being for 13 years 7 months and 6 days	13,058	8	5		
Do. on bond of 1171, from the 1ſt of Jaite to the ſame period, and at the ſame intereſt as the foregoing, being 13 years and 5 days	13,121	8	—		
Do on bond of 1172, from the 14 of Aughun to the ſame period, at the ſame intereſt as the foregoing, being 11 years months and 7 days	9,957	6	5		
Total intereſt on Rajenarrain's money	—		—	1,29,734	7 —
Total intereſt on the whole of the above principal	—		—	2,52,622	— 10

General Abſtract of the foregoing.

Principal	2,12,344	5	—
Intereſt	2,52,622	—	10
Total	4,64,966	5	10

LIST of the before-mentioned Papers as follows; viz.

Tranſlation of the agreement under the hand and ſeal of Rajah Sundernarrain, Zemindar of Coſſijurah and Shapoo, dated the 5th of Jeit 1179.

Tranſlation of a ſunnud, ſealed with the Khalſa ſeal, and ſigned by Mr. Haſtings, and the Superintendant of the Khalſa, dated the 32d Chyte 1180.

Tranſlation of an order of Council, iſſued the 20th April 1774, regarding ſecurities and Zemindars, ſigned by Mr. Lawrell, and ſealed with the Khalſa ſeal.

Calcutta,
the 3d December, 1777.

TRANSLATION of the Agreement under the Hand and Seal of Rajah Sundernarrain, Zemindar of Coſſijurah and Shahpore, dated the 5th of Jeit 1179, Amelly. Signed alſo by the Canongoes.

I who am Rajah Sundernarrain, the Zemindar of the Pergunnahs Coſſijurah and Shahpore, Dependant on the Chuckla of Midnapore, in the Sarcar of Goalpara, of my own free-will and accord, agree and give under my hand, to wit, That it is out of my power to pay the revenue of the ſaid Pergunnahs, by reaſon of the want of caſh, and inability of my ſervants to hold the collections, where the lands are become totally waſte, and there do not remain the aſſets of the revenue and neceſſary expences, exc uſive of my being now indebted large ſums to the Duan and Merchants; with a view, therefore, to preſerve my Zemindary, and the management of the Government's revenues, I have conſtituted Duan, Coſſinaut, who is my patron and near relation, Maſter and Director of my Zemindary for the term of ſeven years, that he may look into the great and ſmall affairs of the Sudder and Mofuſſil, and the accounts of my old ſervants, and cul.ivate and cauſe to flouriſh the diſtricts of my ſaid Zemindary. The agents or ſervants of my ſaid Zemindary ſhall attend on the agents of the ſaid Duan, and tranſact the buſineſs according to his advice and reſolutions. All papers in the courſe of the buſineſs, both Sudder and Mofuſſil, he will ſign; without the ſignature of the Agents of the ſaid Duan they are not to be appr.ved or deemed valid. And if any of my Agents ſhall appropriate the revenue to themſelves, neglect the cultivation of the lands, or oppreſs the Ryots, and theſe offences be proved againſt them, I will be reſponſible for all undue appropriations, and diſmiſs my agents ſo offending. It is authorized by, and agreed to by me, to accept what the ſaid Duan ſhall allow me for my neceſſary expences; more I will not demand of him. It is authorized by me, that he continue ſuch of the ſervants of my Zemindary as he conſiders neceſſary for the buſineſs, and to diſmiſs ſuch as he conſiders unneceſſary for the management of the collections, &c. All ſums, together with intereſt, that may be borrowed according to the accounts of the ſaid Duan, on account of the revenue and neceſſ.ry expences, are to be paid by me. After the expiration of the ſaid period, when I ſhall releaſe the ſaid Duan from the management and poſſeſſion of the ſaid Purgunnahs, having firſt ſettled the account, both principal and intereſt, borrowed by the ſaid Duan, I will pay the full amount, and take from him the ſaid Purgunnahs. If any of the ſaid Duan's agents employed in the collections ſhall appropriate to themſelves any part of the revenue, I will give him due notice at the time, and prove the offence, and he ſhall be reſponſible for the amount; and if at the time theſe offences ſhall be committed, I do not give him notice, and prove them, all claims on him for the ſame are cancelled. Therefore theſe words are written in the ſtile of an agreement, that when required they may be made uſe of.

TRANSLATION

TRANSLATION of a Sunnud with the Khalſa Seal, and ſigned by Mr. Haſtings and the Superintendant of the Khalſa; dated the 32d Chyte 1180, Bengal Year, or 1173.

Be it known to Coſſinaut Baboo, that the Zemindar of Coſſijurah and Shahpore, from the incapacity of his Agents, and the deficiency in the revenue, has, for the proſperity of the country of his Zemindary, and the management of the revenue, authorized you, whom he conſiders as his patron and director, to cultivate and manage, and direct all the affairs of his ſaid Zemindary. That having ſettled the account of every one, you may pay the Company's revenue, and provide food, cloathing, and the other neceſſary charges of the Zemindar. Therefore authority is granted and intruſted from the preſence to you, to take upon you the management of the ſaid Purgunnahs. It is requiſite, that with heart's content, you cultivate the Moſuffil, pay the Company's revenue agreeable to the kiſts, and provide the Zemindar's food and cloathing, and other neceſſary charges. Know this as a poſitive injunction.

TRANSLATION of an Order of Council, iſſued the 20th April 1774, regarding Securities and Zemindars; ſigned by Mr. Lawrell, and ſealed with the Khalſa Seal.

Queſtion.—A Zemindar having made an agreement and ſecurity for the payment of the revenue, retains the management in his own hand; if a balance ariſes, and the ſecurity pays it, ſhall the Zemindary be ſold to the ſecurity, or another perſon, ſo as to reimburſe the ſecurity, or what ſhall be done?

Anſwer.—If there was any agreement between the Zemindar and ſecurity, it is to be abided by; or, if there ſhould be no agreement, the Zemindary is to be ſold to the beſt bidder, from which the debt ſhall be paid; but, ſhould it not ſuffice for the payment of it, the ſecurity has no further claim; becauſe the ſale of the Talook of a Talookdar is an acquittance of the ſecurity's claim.

Reſolved in Council, on the 15th April 1774, in conſequence of an application from Gopenaut Tunden, the ſecurity of Coſſijurah and Shahpore; and ordered that the ſecurity and Zemindar of the ſaid Purgunnahs conform to the above.

Agreed, That copies of the foregoing petition and papers be referred to the Provincial Council of Burdwan, with the following letter.

To Mr. Alexander Higginſon, Chief, &c. Provincial Council of Revenue at Burdwan.

Gentlemen,

Coſſinaut, the ſecurity for the Zemindar of Coſſijurah, having preſented to us a petition on the ſubject of our orders of the 28th October, we herewith encloſe you a copy of it, that you may inſert it on your proceedings, and annex to them your opinion on the facts therein ſtated.

We are, &c.

Fort William,
16th Dec. 1777.

EXTRACT

EXTRACT of Bengal Revenue Consultations of the Year 1779, relative to the Grant of the Zemindary of Baharbund to the Son of Cantoo Baboo.

EXTRACT of Bengal Revenue Consultations, the 30th July 1779.

THE petition of the Zemindar of Baharbund having been sent in circulation, as directed last Council day, is now laid before the Board, and entered, with the remarks returned thereon.

PETITION of Lokenaut Nundee.

The collection of Kaintoo Nugger, my Taluck, was formerly under the direction of the Khalsa, but afterwards transferred to the Calcutta Committee.

I request that it may be again placed under the Khalsa, that the revenues of Government may be discharged comformably to the Bunderbust and Kistbundee Lokenaut Nundee, Zemindar of the Purgunnah Baharbund, &c.

The Zemindary of the Purgunnah Baharbund is granted in my name; and the Dewannee Sunnud for it has been prepared agreeable to order; but the delivery of it suspended, on account of its not having been executed.

As this Sunnud is necessary for establishing the title to the Zemindary, and for the satisfaction of the Ryots, I therefore hope I may be favoured with it; and the Peshcush, &c. dues of Government specified in it shall be discharged; that, having exerted myself with confidence in cultivating the country, I may be ready to discharge the rent.

LOKENAUT NUNDEE, and BISHOO CHERUN NUNDEE, &c.

By contracting debts ourselves, the whole of the demands of Government, on account of the Mehals which we farmed or stood security for in the late five years settlement, has been duly discharged, conformably to our engagements.

Considerable arrears are, however, due to us, as per separate account from the Zemindars and Cutkinnadars, &c. which they do not discharge; and we, finding ourselves unable to oblige them, request an order may be issued to the Superintendant of the Khalsa, to summon them before him, and oblige them to pay us whatever, upon a fair examination, we may appear entitled to, that we may be able to satisfy our creditors, and be relieved from a heavy charge of interest we now labour under.

(Accompanying

(Accompanying the Petition of Lokenaut Nundee, and Bisno Cherun Nundee.

ACCOUNT Balances due to Loke Naut Nundee, and Bisno Cherun Nundee, &c. from the Mutager and Malzaminee Mehals of Jehangerpoor, &c. to the end of 1183, B. S.

Names of the Kutkinnadars, &c. on whom they have demands.	Mustageree.	Malzaminee Mehals	Money lent.	Total demand.
Pergunnah Jehangerepoor.—Kutkinnadars, Brifer Roy and Coffinaut Roy, Luckycaunt Roy, Byfenram Roy, Gowry Caunt Roy, the fons of Brifer — —	61,302 4 11 1	—	—	61,302 4 11 1
Do Thettinda.—Kutkinnadar, Colly Tunker Roy.—Security, Dernedar Roy —	3,315 10 10 0	—	—	3,315 10 10 0
Do Cuiburrea.—Kutkinnadars, Attul Beharee Roy, Sham Roy Ram Cunnai Roy. —Securities, Byenot Ray, Narrain Roy, Ramkifon Roy — —	3,611 6 17 0	—	—	3,611 6 17 0
Do Vizierabad, Taluck of Hederam Roy.—Kutkr, Hurryperfaud Roy — —	580 9 9 2	—	291 0 0 0	580 9 9 2
Do Divn of Do, fhare of Nelecaunt Ray.—Kutkr, Gorah Chaundnaut — —	34 6 0 0	—	—	325 6 0 0
Do Chuna Colly.—Kutkrs, Annunt Chund Roy, Oudechund Beneta, and Gutab Roy	35,841 7 18 2	—	2,801 0 0 0	38,642 7 18 3
Do Sulfika.—Kutkrs, Burkulla Choudy.—Security, Mahomed Afhur Cawn, Zemindar of the perga — — — — —	20,537 7 18 0	—	—	20,537 7 18 0
Do Divn of Do Khas collection arrears of Kutkinnadars and Ryots — —	4,523 12 6 0	—	—	4,523 12 6 0
Do Ambefabad Khas collection due from the Zemindars and Talukdars —	32,013 5 12 0	—	8,756 0 0 0	40,769 5 12 0
Do Divn of Do —— due from Meer Doaft Ally.—Security, Meer Huffian Ally — — — — —	23,950 6 10 0	—	—	23,950 6 10 0
Do Do, Do.—Kutkr, Bifhen Chund Tewaree.—Security, Kifhen Chund Tewarree —	35,931 3 0 0	—	—	35,931 3 0 0
Do Soorhur Mankur, Taluk of Sumboonor Sing and Rungnot Sing — —	—	22,001 0 0 0	—	22,001 0 0 0
Do Tahefpore, Taluk of Lucky Serroo Sutty — — —	—	5,711 3 0 0	—	5,711 3 0 0
Do Kaffypoor, Taluk of Mirtunjee Choudry, and Prawn Kifhen Chowdry —	—	4 106 15 17 0	817 0 0 0	4,923 15 17 0
Do Shummus Khannie, Taluk of Keefoo, &c. — —	—	817 3 2 2	—	817 3 2 2
Turriff Jeccur Hattie, Taluk of Meer Salamut Ally — —	—	858 1 18 0	—	858 1 18 0
Do Dafs Para —— of Lall Dofs Parell — —	—	71 12 9 0	—	71 12 9 0
Do Dee Gann —— of Hur Ram and Rudder Ram —	—	918 8 0 0	—	918 8 0 0
Do Niffepoor —— of Dearam Choudry and Indigir Choudry —	—	875 7 15 0	—	875 7 15 0
Perga Sudkie —— of Kifhen Charun Roy, and Chunder Narrain Roy —	—	55 5 0 0	—	55 5 0 0
Turriff Currie —— of Kifhen Deo Roy — — —	—	747 5 15 2	—	747 5 15 2
Chuckla of Midnapore and Jellifore, perga Cuttabpore, &c. — —	—	23,036 0 16 0	—	23,036 0 16 0
	2,21,642 0 12 2	59,251 15 13 0	12,065 0 0 0	2,93,559 0 5 2

Mr. Francis, } Seen.
Mr. Wheler, }

The following minutes are now delivered.

Mr. Barwell,

I can ſee no objection to my complying with the three ſeveral requeſts contained in theſe petitions.

Governor General,

The firſt of theſe is a requeſt, that he may pay the rents of Contoonagur into the Khalſa directly, inſtead of paſſing them through the intermediate channel of the Provincial Council of Calcutta. To this I agree, and ſhall give my aſſent to every requeſt of the ſame kind, from whomſoever made; this being my original intention, in my concurrence with the eſtabliſhments of Provincial Councils.

The ſecond is a requeſt, to obtain a Sunnud for his Zemindary, his acknowledged property I know no poſſible objection to it, unleſs it be one, that he has the misfortune to be my ſervant. The Zemindary was his property long before my return to Bengal.—I agree to it.

To the third I agree, and move, That it be referred to the Superintendant of the Khalſa records.

Mr. Wheler,

I aſſent.

Agreed, That the following letter be written to the Provincial Council of Calcutta.

To Mr. David Anderſon, Chief, &c. Provincial Council for the Diviſion of Calcutta.

Gentlemen,

This ſerves to adviſe you, that we have permitted Lokenaut Nundee, the Talookdar of Kauntoo Nurgur, to pay the rents of that Talook directly to the Khalſa.

Fort William,
30th July, 1779.

We are, &c.

Ordered, That a Sunnud be prepared by the Superintendant of the Khalſa records, for Lucknaut Nundy, for the Zemindary of Baharbund.

Ordered, That his laſt petition be referred, with the account accompanying it, to the Superintendant of the Khalſa records, with directions to comply with the prayer of the petition.

Read the following further Petition from the Zemindar of Baharbund.

PETITION of Lokenaut Nundee, Zemindar of the Pergunnah Baharbund, &c.

The farm of Baharbund, &c. my Zemindary, including the Ruſſud, was granted to Biſhnoo Cherun Nundee, for five years. In Mr. Lambert's ſettlement of Dunagepoor, the Ruſſud was ſtruck

ſtruck off, and this Pergunnah, as well as the reſt, exempted from it; unfortunately for me, this was not approved by the Council, although the original rents of the Mahal had conſiderably fallen off: Being without remedy, I diſcharged the full rents, together with the Ruſſud, to the end of 1183, putting up with a conſiderable loſs. In 1184 a ſettlement was ordered to be made on a medium of the Sudder receipts for three years. Finding I ſhould be unable to bear the heavy yearly loſs that muſt enſue, I gave in a ſtatement of the capacity of my Zemindary, and offered to agree to a ſettlement of Rs 80,000. This was not complied with, and the collection remained Khas for that year.

In 1185 an order was given the gentlemen at Rungpore, to offer the Zemindar the ſettlement upon the medium of the years 1180, 1, and 2, which amounted to Rs 95,236. 10, and if he refuſed thoſe terms to make a khas collection, allowing the Zemindar 10 per cent. for his Muſhaira. As I could not afford to give it, the khas collection took place for 1185, and notwithſtanding a Sezawel was deputed, and every means taken by the above gentleman to realize the collections 1184, only rupees 80,759 was recovered, and in 1185 Rs 82,639; and out of this my Muſhaira was not paid, ſuppoſing it paid it would come conſiderably ſhort of that amount.

While the Mehal is ſubjected to a khas collection, and the Zemindar receives no Muſhaira, how is the Zemindar to ſubſiſt, or the Ryots to find encouragement to cultivate the lands?

I have therefore preſented a petition to the Zella, a tranſlate of which has been ſent the Council, requeſting to be permitted to hold the Zemindary from the preſent year 1186, at the yearly rent of Rs 82,639.

Diſputes having ariſen between me and Nazir Deo, concerning the right to ſome villages in the Pergunnah Guibarree, my Zemindary, an Aumeen was ſent by Mr. Harwood, by whoſe report they clearly appeared to belong to my Zemindary. The Pergunnah is now under Mr. Purling, and the Amla of both parties attended that gentleman with the papers, and the villages are in charge of Government till the matter is adjuſted.

According to the Huſtabood of the Sezawul, the Jumma amounts to Rs 6,194. 15½. I therefore humbly requeſt, that an order may be iſſued to Mr. Purling to examine the papers, and to put me in poſſeſſion of the villages.

I further hope, that the offer I made for the ſettlement of Baharbund, which has been referred to the Board, may be agreed to, the amount of which, including the Jumma of the above villages, will be Rs 88,833. 15½, and that an Amuldaree Sunnud may be granted me from the year 1186, and fixing them at that ſum for ever after.

Mr. Purling, the Collector of Rungpore, being called before the Board, is deſired to inform them what knowledge he has of the reciprocal claims of the Zemindar of Baharbund, and Nazir Deo, the Dewan of Cooch Beyhar, reſpecting certain villages ſtated in the petition to belong to the Pergunnah of Ghybarry, and of the inveſtigations which have been made of them reſpectively.

Anſ. I recollect, that immediately upon my arrival at Rungpore in Auguſt 1777, the Zemindar of Baharbund laid a claim to ſome part of the Pergunnah Ghybarry, which was in the poſſeſſion of Nazir Deo; I was alſo informed that Mr. Harwood had made an inveſtigation concerning the property of thoſe villages; but that no deciſion had been paſſed.

A little before my leaving Rungpore this laſt time, I ordered the villages to be attached, intending to have gone into an enquiry, and paſſing ſome deciſion upon the claim of the Zemindar of Baharbund; but leaving Rungpore, and the loſs of my former aſſiſtant, have prevented any thing being done in that buſineſs.

Queſt. The Zemindar of Baharbund ſtates in his petition, that the khas collection of Baharbund amounted, in the year 1184 to 80,759 rupees, and in 1185 to 82,639 rupees, including the amount of his Monſhaira, which was not paid him for either of thoſe years: You are deſired to inform the Board of the truth of theſe aſſertions?

The

The ſum of 1184 is properly ſtated, to my knowledge, having taken very particular pains to bring the Sezawel to an adjuſtment of his accounts at the cloſe of the year 1184, and previous to the receipt of the Zemindar's petition regarding the ſettlement of 1185. His Moſhaira is not deducted in the Huſtabood, nor has it been paid to him. I cannot ſpeak to the collections of 1185, as they have been cloſed ſince my leaving Rungpore.

The queſtion relative to 1185 being put to the Secretary,

He acquaints the Board, That the amount of the collections of that year is accurately ſtated, as appears by the Jumma Waſſil Bauky received from the acting Collector, with his letter of the 17th June.

Queſt. At what do you eſtimate the real amount of the collections of Baharbund, if properly managed?

Anſw. Not including the Jumma of the diſputed villages in Ghybarry, I eſtimate the nett collections at 80,000 S. Rs per annum.

Governor General.

I move, That Mr. Purling may be directed, immediately on his return to Rungpore, to enter on the examination of the diſputes between the Zemindar of Baharbund and Nazir Deo, concerning the villages aſſerted by the Zemindars to belong to him, as part of the Pergunnah of Ghybarry, and report the reſult of his enquiry to the Board; and that the Chief and Council of Denagepore be directed to furniſh him with a copy of ſuch of their proceedings as have a relation to this ſubject. And I further beg leave to propoſe the following queſtions, for the deciſion of the Board; to which I ſhall add my opinion, after thoſe of the other Members.

Queſt. 1ſt. Shall the petition of the Zemindar of Baharbund, to be allowed the poſſeſſion of his Zemindary at the fixed Jumma of 82,639 rupees, be granted?

2ndly. Shall the Zemindar be allowed his Moſhaira out of that ſum, &c.?

3dly. Shall the Zemindar be allowed his Moſhaira out of the collections of the two laſt years?

The Secretary will be pleaſed to furniſh the Board with a copy of the General Orders which have been paſſed reſpecting the payment of the Moſhaira, or monthly reſerved rents of the Zemindars, whoſe lands are khas, to aſſiſt the Board in their deciſion upon the laſt queſtion.

Mr. Francis being abſent from the Board, I propoſe that theſe papers be ſent in circulation to ſuch of the Members as are at the Preſidency.

This propoſition being agreed to;

Ordered, That the papers be ſent in circulation accordingly.

EXTRACT of Bengal Revenue Conſultations, the 20th Auguſt 1779.

The petition from the Zemindar of Baharbund, with Mr. Purling's examination, and the Governor General's propoſition, recorded in conſultation the 30th July, having been ſent in circulation to the Members of the Board, the following minutes were returned thereon.

Mr. Francis.

I have no objection to the orders propoſed to be given to Mr. Purling.

1ſt.

1ſt Queſtion.—I think that the nett jumma of this Zemindary ſhould be fixed at the medium of the three years nett collections; that is, on the ſame principle on which almoſt all the lands of Bengal are now ſettled.

2d Queſtion.—The jumma, fixed as above, ſhould come nett and entire into the Treaſury.

3d Queſtion.—No, unleſs the collections of thoſe two years exceed the amount of the above jumma; in that caſe the difference ſhould be re-paid to the Zemindar. This is ſtrictly conformable to the principle of our order of the 4th of Auguſt 1778, and in my opinion perfectly juſt and neceſſary.

Mr. Wheler ſubſcribed to the above opinion of Mr. Francis.

Mr. Barwell.

I believe there is a reſolution of the Board uncancelled, that while the jumma of a Pergunnah or nett revenue, falls ſhort of the medium, no allowance is to be made for Moſhaira.—I agree to the ſettlement at 82,639.

Governor General.

I agree to the firſt queſtion.

On the ſecond and third queſtions, I would deſire to decline an anſwer, if I might be permitted to withhold my Vote on any queſtion brought before the Board. The perſon who is the object of them is my ſervant, and he has been for that reaſon (or for none) thus long deprived of a right which he acquired before I arrived in the country, or was appointed to any ſtation in it. In the opinion which I may give on the queſtions, I am expoſed to a diſagreeable dilemma, and muſt either ſubject myſelf to the imputation of partiality, or while I yield to that ſuggeſtion, and attend only to the delicacy which my own conduct may require, I muſt be unjuſt to a man who has a claim to my ſupport, as a ſubject of this Government, and has certainly not forfeited that right by being my immediate dependant.

The caſe of this man is widely different from that of other Zemindars. As long as he could afford it, he ſupported his credit in a declining Pergunnah, by paying up its deficiencies out of his private fortune. When he had no longer means for the annual expence, he yielded to neceſſity, and reſigned the charge of it. It has ſince remained in the hands of Government—and the collections, thus realized, have fallen ſhort of the medium of the collections of the years 1180, 81, and 82, by 27,074 rupees, or 3,537 rupees annually. Mr. Purling has declared, in the preſence of the Board, that he does not believe the Pergunnah to be capable of yielding a higher jumma than 80,000 rupees. The Zemindar has agreed to take charge of it at 82,639 rupees, truſting to his own care and attention for indemnifying himſelf for the actual difference. With reſpect to the Moſhaira, the Board has, it is true, paſſed a general reſolution, that every Zemindar refuſing to rent his own Zemindary ſhall forfeit his Moſhaira, if by ſuch refuſal the actual rents ſhall not prove ſufficient to complete the fixed jumma, and leave a ſurplus for that allowance. But I conceive the caſe of the Zemindar of Baharbund to be widely different from that of the Zemindar intended by this order. He has been long out of poſſeſſion, and in effect never was allowed complete poſſeſſion in all the forms which were requiſite to convey the authority which a Zemindar ought to exerciſe over his Ryots. His refuſal was prior to the order, and the effect of proved neceſſity. Again, it is to be obſerved, that the medium of the collections of the years 1180, 81, and 82, was eſtabliſhed as the ſtandard of the annual jumma of every Zemindarry, expreſsly as an indulgence, on the aſſumption of the inability of the Zemindars to make good the jumma, as it ſtood at the time in which this regulation was paſſed. It was profeſſedly a reduction, not an encreaſe of the jumma: But it appears, and on clear proof, before the Board, that the payments of Baharbund in that period greatly exceeded the capacity of the lands, and were made up from external means, to preſerve the credit and poſſeſſion of the Zemindar. It would, therefore, be unjuſt at this time to inſiſt on that medium for the preſent jumma, and equally unjuſt to withhold his Moſhaira, or proprietary ſhare of the rents, as a mulct for their deficiency, while the management of them was in charge of the officers of the Government itſelf; which in effect would be to puniſh him for having, at his own charge, ſupported the jumma to its original ſtandard, while others were rewarded for having cauſed or ſuffered their rents to decline.

For theſe reaſons, it is my opinion, in anſwer to the two laſt queſtions, that the Zemindar is both entitled to his Moſhaira, out of the jumma now propoſed, and to his arrears, out of the collections during his diſpoſſeſſion.

Reſolved, That the Zemindar of Baharbund be allowed the poſſeſſion of his Zemindary, on a mocurery or fixed leaſe, at the jumma of 82,639 rupees, being the amount of the collections of the laſt year.

Ordered, That a Bundobuſty Sunned be propoſed for him accordingly, by the ſuperintendant of the Khalſa records.

Agreed, That the following letter be written to the Collector of Rungpore.

To Mr. Charles Purling, Collector of Rungpore.

Sir,

Lockenaut Nundy, the Zemindar of Baharbund, having repreſented to us, that ſome diſputes have ariſen between him and Nazir Deo, concerning the right to ſome villages in the Purgunnah of Ghybarry, which are aſſerted by the Zemindar to belong to him, as part of that Pergunnah; we direct that you immediately enter on an examination of the diſputes in queſtion, and report to us the reſult of your enquiry. The Provincial Council of Dinagepore have been directed to furniſh you with a copy of ſuch of their proceedings as have a relation to this ſubject.

The Zemindar of Baharbund having offered to hold his Zemindary on a mokurey or fixed leaſe, at the jumma of rupees 82,639, being the amount of the collections of the laſt year, we have conſented thereto, and have accordingly directed a Bundibuſty Sunnud to be prepared and granted him. We ſhall cauſe a Cabooleat to be taken from him, conformably thereto, and you will call upon him to execute the Kiſtbundy in the uſual manner.

We are, &c.

Fort William,
20th Auguſt 1779.

Ordered, That the Secretary do write to the Provincial Council of Dinagepre, to furniſh the Collector of Rungepore with a copy of their proceedings concerning the diſputes between the Zemindar of Baharbund and Nazir Deo, to the right of the villages in the Pergunnah of Ghyabarry.

AN ACCOUNT

Settlement, Collections, and Balances of the Revenues of the BEHAR PROVINCE,

(Excluſive of the DISTRICTS under Mr. CHARLES GRÆME)

For the Four Years commencing in SEPTEMBER 1779; diſtinguiſhing each Year.

Behar Years			Groſs Jumma, for the Years 1187 to 1190, Engliſh Syle from September 1779 to Septembe 1782.	Extra Collections in Behar.	Total Jumma, for the Behar Years 1187 to 1190.	Abatements granted to the Farmers on the Jumma of 1187 to 1190.	Nett Jumma, for the Behar Years 1187 to 1190, payable at the Sudder Cutchery at Patna.	Collected Account old Balances in Behar	Total Debits for the Behar Years 1187 to 1190	Amount received in the Patna Treaſury.	Balance in Arrears of the Collection, at the End of each Year.
1187, or 1779, to 1780	Sa Rs		29,21,107 6 15 0	83,423 14 15 0	30,04,531 5 10 0	10,100 12 15 0	29,94,430 8 15 0	1,27,283 3 0 0	31,21,713 11 15 0	28,13,342 15 15 0	3,08,370 12 0 0
1188, or 1780, to 1781			34,12,610 3 0 0	297,284 3 18 2	35,09,894 6 18 2	4,125 6 0 0	35,05,769 0 18 2	1,70,548 4 5 0	36,76,317 5 3 2	29,48,826 2 8 2	7,27,491 2 15 0
1189, or 1781, to 1782			33,24,024 7 11 0	11 ,887 13 17	34,37,912 5 8 2	79,521 6 2 0	33,58,390 15 6 2	3,44,957 0 0 0	37,03,347 15 6 2	33,01,550 7 15 0	4,01,797 7 11 2
1190, or 1782, to 1783			32,56,112 10 8 0	3,03,748 5 19 1	35,59,861 0 7 1	11,601 15 4 2	35,48,259 1 2 3	2,29,425 5 5 2	37,77,684 6 8 1	30,53,994 1 19 1	7,23,690 4 9 0

East India Houſe,
27th March, 1787.

WM. WRIGHT,
Auditor of Indian Accounts.

AN

An Account of the Balances due by Kullian Sing and Kyalleram, to the Government of Bengal:

According to the lateſt Advices.

Balance Account the Year	1780--81		—	Sa. Rs.	—	4,05,402
	1781--82	—	—		—	3,15,760
	1782--83	—	—	—	—	3,80,200
				Sicca Rupees	—	11,01,362

East-India Houſe,
25th April 1787.

WM WRIGHT,
Auditor of Indian Accounts.

EXTRRCT of Bengal Revenue Conſultations, the 28th October 1776, 5th and 26th September 1777, relative to the Balance remitted to Rajah of Nuddea.

EXTRACT of Bengal Revenue Conſultations, the 8th October, 1776.

MR. Francis delivers in the following minute, on the ſubject of the propoſed remiſſion in Nuddea,

Mr. Francis.

Before I give my aſſent to the propoſed remiſſion, I beg leave to ſtate ſome of the principal facts attending the ſettlement of this Zemindary, and at the ſame time to repreſent to the Company the real ſituation in which I am obliged to act—my own juſtification requires it. We are called upon to relieve a diſtrict over-rated by the Committee of Circuit, ſimilar caſes come before us frequently.

The Committee, after enjoying the credit of forming a high and advantageous ſettlement to the Company, have left nothing to their ſucceſſors but the mortifying taſk of correcting miſtakes of which we are not the occaſion, at the hazard of being ſuſpected of want of zeal or fidelity in the execution of our duty. We appear before the Court of Directors, in a compariſon with the late adminiſtration, highly unfavourable to us: On one ſide they ſee ſanguine promiſes of extraordinary advantages; on the other conſiderable diſappointment for the paſt, and no better hopes held out for the future, yet I rely upon their juſtice, that they will look minutely into facts, and not try the merits of the preſent adminiſtration by any expectations grounded on the repreſentations of our predeceſſors.

There

There cannot be a ſtronger caſe than that now under our conſideration, to prove the general over-ratement of the country. If miſtakes appear to have been made in the valuation of a country ſo near Calcutta as the Zemindary of Nuddea, it may reaſonably be preſumed, that the ſettlement of the diſtant diſtricts was not formed with greater accuracy, or on ſurer grounds.

The firſt and principal fact appears by the following ſtatement, viz. that the next Jumma of Nuddea, for the five years ending in April next, ſuppoſing it to have been realized according to the Committee Settlement, would have amounted to ſicca rupees 42,31,415; whereas the nett receipts amount to no more than 36,50,518; the difference to be accounted for is 5,80,897.

1179	-	-	7,49,629	-	-	6,27,425
1180	-	-	7,72,554	-	-	7,48,693
1181	-	-	8,54,753	-	-	7,53,774
1182	-	-	9,09,027	-	-	7,60,626
1183	-	-	9,45,452	Eſtimated -	-	7,60,000
			42,31,415	Total -		36,50,518
				Balance -		5,80,897

The ſecond fact to be obſerved is, that there was an actual huſtaboud, or valuation of rents, made by Mr. Rider, for this Province for the year 1178; that the Committee were not guided by the valuation, but put the lands up to outcry, and made an increaſe on the huſtaboud; whereas the farmers, ſo far from being able to pay the increaſe, fell conſiderably ſhort of the huſtaboud, even in the firſt year of their leaſe. The Company have already before them the general reaſons for which I diſapprove of this rigorous method of forming valuations of the lands; but to form a huſtaboud firſt, and then to aim at an arbitrary increaſe upon the amount of it, ſeems to me a deviation from all rules whatſoever, and irreconcilable with any principle or ſyſtem that I have yet heard maintained with reſpect to the formation of a ſettlement.

3d. It is aſſerted, that after the expiration of the firſt year, in which the farmers incurred a balance of 1,34,424, the Province was given in form to the Rajah on the terms of their leaſe. This I think is not the fact. The appearance of the Jumma, it is true, was not altered, but the allowance to the Rajah, for charges of collection, was doubled; which in effect amounted, in the four years, to a deduction from the net Jumma, equal to S. Rs 2,48,903. Notwithſtanding this remiſſion from the Jumma, the Rajah has incurred a conſiderable balance, in diminution of which he claims certain deductions, on which we are now to determine.

4. The firſt article conſiſts of a deficiency in the produce of two particular farms. Without diſputing the fact, I think it does not, of itſelf, warrant a concluſion, that the Rajah is entitled to an equal remiſſion: He takes the whole Zemindary together, and leaſes the ſeveral farms in what manner he thinks proper: If he loſes on ſome, he may be ſuppoſed to gain on others. I ſee no objection to the ſecond claim, for a deduction of the increaſe on the Talookdars lands, except that it ought to have been made, and the jumma altered accordingly, when the fact now repreſented was firſt aſcertained, and not left to accumulate to the cloſe of the ſettlement.

The third claim of Rs 6,000, on account of land carried away by flood, was allowed in 1179. This ſum therefore ſhould have been ſtruck off from the jumma of the ſucceeding four years.

The fourth claim, on account of duties on grain, aboliſhed in 1180, is allowable for the articles of collection really aboliſhed; but when Government thought fit to preclude the Rajah from levying theſe duties, I can ſee no juſt reaſon why they ſhould not, at the ſame time, have made a proportionable deduction from the jumma.

With reſpect to the fifth claim, for Dawk charges, I agree with the Governor General.

The ſixth, for a deduction of Rs 10,200 a year, on account of an error in the particulars of the jumma, of one Chuckla, has already been allowed for the firſt year.

If the fact was not aſcertained at that time, the deduction ſhould not have been allowed; if it was, the error ſhould then have been corrected, and the jumma reduced accordingly.

Upon the whole, I mean to acquieſce in the remiſſions recommended by the Governor General, though not entirely for the reaſons aſſigned by him: If thoſe reaſons are valid, they were as much ſo three years ago as they are now, and the facts much more open to examination, and capable of proof. My acquieſcence ariſes from a conviction that the country in general is overrated, that it demands relief, and that the amount of the remiſſions is not in every ſenſe loſt to the Company, if it be ſuffered to remain in the hands of their ſubjects.

(Signed) P. FRANCIS.

Governor General,

As I would wiſh to avoid a controverſy on a ſubject on which I have reaſon to believe all the Members of the Board will be generally of the ſame opinion, I ſhall only take notice of two arguments made uſe of in the preceding minute, becauſe I conceive them to be formed on miſtaken principles. The difference between the original jumma and the actual collections of the revenue, has been ſo frequently imputed to the late adminiſtration, as an error in their conduct, and ſometimes to worſe motives, and this charge has been ſo frequently refuted, that I ſhall uſe but a few words to call the reaſoning upon it at large to the remembrance of thoſe who are already in poſſeſſion of them.

The jumma, or ſettlement, made in the year 1179, was properly an eſtimate of what the Provinces would yield under every favourable circumſtance, but never was intended, nor held out to the Court of Directors, by any declaration, expreſs or implied, as the certain amount of their future produce. In proportion as the hopes of the farmers were diſappointed by any unforeſeen calamity, either natural or artificial, deficiencies muſt proportionably ariſe in the collections of Government; it being an infallible conſequence, that where the farmer loſes, the public cannot gain; nor can all the rigour of impriſonment, or the terrors of corporal puniſhment, exact from a man what he has not.

This is the real ſtate of the revenue in general; it was calculated to produce the greateſt probable amount; deficiencies were expected of courſe, and the Preſident and Council reſerved to themſelves the right of allowing them as indulgencies, where they were ſatisfied of the juſtneſs of the pretenſions that were made to them; and I hope, that before we are ſubjected to the cenſures of our ſuperiors on this account, they will firſt ſatisfy themſelves that we are not ſingularly guilty, by ſeeking for a ſingle precedent in any country exiſting, in which the eſtimated revenue is, or ever was, fully realized in the collections made upon it.

With reſpect to Nuddea, the manner in which the ſettlement was made differed eſſentially from that of the other ſettlements; the Members who formed the Committee were but ſlightly known to each other; this, and ſome perſonal diſagreements, made it impracticable for them to unite in forming a ſettlement upon the eſtimated value of the lands, and giving it to the moſt reſponſible of the competitors, not to the higheſt bidders. The mode which was or could be leaſt exceptionable to the Members of the Committee, and by which their characters could be beſt guarded againſt imputations, was to let the lands in lots at public outcry, which was accordingly done; and I believe it impoſſible for all the arts of ſophiſtry to produce a ſpecious argument to prove, that any of the Members could have gained any private immediate advantage by this diſpoſal of them, although they might eventually by this or any other. It is true, that the lands were almoſt all overbid for, and many let to indigent and deſperate adventurers, but this was unavoidable in ſuch a mode, and every other muſt be ſubjected to it in a greater or leſs degree, unleſs the Government will, by its own authority, ſet aſide the rights ſo acquired by individuals, and expoſe the characters of its Members to the imputations of injuſtice and corrupt partiality.

Mr. Francis has obſerved, that the Rajah having undertaken the whole farm, though he might be a loſer on one diſtrict, might be ſuppoſed to be compenſated by the gain in another; this concluſion would be ſtrictly true, if he had originally negotiated for the whole farm; but having taken it collectively, upon the ſame footing on which the ſeveral farms were reſpectively held by the former farmers, he ſhould be allowed in this inſtance the ſame conſideration that they would

would have been entitled to: Each of theſe eſtimated his ſmall portion of the Zemindary at its full worth, and would have had a claim to a remiſſion in the caſe of a deficiency, which claim devolved of courſe to the Zemindar, who ſtood in the place of each, and who therefore was precluded from the benefit which he might otherwiſe have had. if the Zemindary had been let to him only; this I have already briefly obſerved in my former minute.

Mr. Barwell.

I concur with the Governor General in opinion, that a remiſſion ſhould be allowed.

Reſolved, That the ſum of 3,32,348 be allowed to the Rajah, as a remiſſion from the whole amount of his farm, from the commencement of it to its concluſion, with the reſervation of forty thouſand rupees, being the amount accumulated on the ſum of 10,000 rupees, ſuppoſed to have been an overcharge, occaſioned by a miſtake in the addition of the jumma of the pergunnah of Kiſſenagur, until the real amount of the jumma of that pergunnah ſhall have been aſcertained by an inſpection of the original papers in the poſſeſſion of the Naib at Kiſſenagur; and that he be directed, for that purpoſe, to tranſmit them to the Committee of Revenue.

Agreed, That theſe reſolutions be communicated to the Calcutta Committee, in the following letter.

To Mr. Charles Goring, Preſident, &c. Provincial Council of Revenue at Calcutta.

Gentlemen,

Having inveſtigated the claims made by the Rajah of Nuddea for deductions in his rents, we have reſolved to admit the following ſums; viz.

1ſt. Deficiency in the real produce of Plaſſey and Muttiary	—					59,770	0	0	0
2d. Amount remitted to the Talookdars, but not ſtruck out of the jumma	—					8,799	0	0	0
3dly. Chiluntah, or Toll on goods paſſing and repaſſing		11,221	6	12	1				
Ferries — — — —		797	8	12	1				
						12,018	15	4	2
4th. Error in the calculation of the Huſtabood — — —						10,000	0	0	0
	Rup^{s}	—				90,587	15	4	2

Which multiplied by four, the number of years in his leaſe, produces 3,62,348 rupees; from this a deduction muſt be made, of 30,000 rupees, allowed in the firſt year of his leaſe, which leaves his claim for the whole term 3,32,348; this ſum we direct you to allow the Rajah, as a remiſſion from the whole amount of his farm, from the commencement of it to its concluſion, with the reſervation of 40,000 rupees, being the amount accumulated on the ſum of 10,000 rupees, ſuppoſed to have been an overcharge occaſioned by a miſtake in the addition of the jumma of the pergunnah of Kiſſenagur, until the real amount of the jumma of that pergunnah, ſhall have been aſcertained, by an inſpection of the original papers in the poſſeſſion of the Naib of Kiſſennagore, for which purpoſe you will apply to him for them.

We are, &c.

Fort William,
8th October 1776.

Ordered, That their reſolution be alſo communicated to the Superintendant of the Khalſa records; and that he be directed to communicate the ſame to the Rajah's Agent.

The Secretary having waited on General Clavering, with the proceeding of the 4th, and of this day, he delivered to him the following minute, on the ſubject of the deductions claimed by the Rajah of Nuddea.

General

General Clavering.

The Report of the Superintendant of the Khalſa Records having been ſent to me, on the claims of the Rajah of Nuddea, for ſeveral different allowances, I have read it over with great care; as I have the Minutes of the Governor General and Mr. Francis on the ſame ſubject, together with the Reſolution of the Board, to grant the Rajah a deduction on the 4 years of his leaſe, to the ſum of rupees 3,32,348, incluſive of rupees 40,824, a claim pretended to be made for an error in the account of the diſtrict, if it be proved; which, as it is ſubmitted to the Naib Dewan of the diſtrict, who is moſt probably under the influence of the Rajah, there can ſcarce be a doubt but it will be admitted.—I perceive that the general reaſons on which this remiſſion is granted are, that the Province of Nuddea was over-rated by the Committee of Circuit, without, however, any ſpecification for the grounds of this opinion, which was taken up, for the firſt time, in May 1774.

The Committee of Circuit, had certainly no idea that the province was not very well able to pay the full amount of the increaſing jumma upon the 5 years ſettlement, before they put up the lands to public ſale. They had already deducted rupees 80,256. 10. 16. 2, on account of oppreſſive duties, admitting at the ſame time, on the amount of the Huſtabood, the ſum of rupees 15,961. 19. 3, being an increaſe by reſumption of immunities. In the following year there ſeemed to be ſtill leſs ſuſpicion that the province had been over-rated, when it was thought proper to give it in farm to the Rajah, who took upon himſelf not only to pay the whole of the rents of the diſtrict for the 4 enſuing years, but to be anſwerable for ſuch balances as, upon adjuſtment of the accounts of the diſmiſſed farmers, ſhould be due and recoverable from the Ryots.

Would the Board have entered into new engagements with the Rajah on the preciſe terms of the Committee's ſettlement, if, after a year's experience of the effects which it had produced, they had ſuſpected the province to be over-rated? Would the Rajah have done it on the conditions which he accepted, that the ſale of his Zemindary ſhould make good the deficiencies in his rents?

Mr. Ryder, who had been three years collector of the province, who made the Huſtabood on which the Committee formed their ſettlement, and who actually, in 1771, collected rupees 11,53,134. 15. 2. 2, in writing to Mr. Cottrel his ſucceſſor, in his letter of 10th April 1773, giving him the moſt circumſtantial account of the ſtate of the province, does not entertain a doubt that it was able to pay the whole ſum at which it was rated; and if I might be permitted to add the teſtimony of his ſecond ſon, Sumboo Chund, who gave in propoſals for farming the diſtrict ſo late as June laſt, to the public report of the country, the Rajah has collected from the Ryots, as well the ſums that were due to the former farmers, as the full amount of the Moffuſil Huſtabood, ſince the commencement of his leaſe.

But if further proof was wanting, to ſhew that no idea was entertained that the province was over-rated by any Members of the preſent Board, excepting by the Governor General, who muſt have probably concurred in the grant of 30,000 rupees given to the Rajah as a ſpecial favour, on the 3d May 1774, on condition that he ſhould completely diſcharge the remaining balance, I need only appeal to the reſolution that was taken on 22d Auguſt 1775, when thoſe ſame claims were under our conſideration, that the Zemindary ſhould be ſold to make good the arrears that were then due: the Board were unanimous in this reſolution, though it concurred ſo ſeldom in other points.

When a Zemindar has entered into ſpecific engagements with Government for the jumma of his Zemindary, it is highly improper for Adminiſtration to receive any claims from him on any plea whatever: He is to enjoy all the advantages, and to ſtand to all the loſſes, according to the 26th article of his agreement, a copy of which I think it neceſſary to annex hereto, as a voucher for what I advance: if this was not the caſe, the ſecurity of a common farmer would be as good as that of a Zemindar: on this account I will not examine whether Plaſſey, or other particular pergunnahs, have been injured, either by depopulation or innundation; but I cannot help obſerving, that his plea for an allowance on account of duties on grain, was deducted from the ſettlement formed in 1779, previous to his being in charge of the farm.

Not

Not having, therefore, a ſingle fact before me, to induce me to alter the opinion which I entertained on the 22d Auguſt 1775, that the Rajah is bound to pay all the arrears due from the province, from the time of taking his leaſe, I cannot but adhere ſtill to the ſame opinion, and muſt proteſt againſt the Reſolution of the Board of the 18th inſtant, for ſurrendering ſo enormous a proportion of what I conceive to be the Company's juſt dues.

For further illuſtration of this ſubject, I beg leave to refer the Court of Directors to the letters of the late Governor and Council, of 3d November 1772, and 10th November 1773.

EXTRACT from the Caboolеat of Cower Senchund.

Article 26th. I will make no demand for abatement in the jumma at which I have taken the farm of the Sircar, on account of inundation, drought, mortality, or deſertion of Ryots, or on any other account whatſoever, the loſs is mine: whatever I may be able to produce, by uſing expedient meaſures for the increaſe of population and cultivation, more than the rents of the Sircars, is my profit; the Sircar has nothing to do with it.

(Signed) J. CLAVERING.

As the General's indiſpoſition ſtill prevents his aſſiſting in the deliberations of the Board,

Agreed, That the Secretary be directed to carry the proceedings the following day to him, for his inſpection, and to record any opinion that he may think it neceſſary to minute upon them.

EXTRACT of Bengal Revenue Conſultations 5th September 1777.

Read the following petition from the Rajah of Nuddea.

Arzee of Mha Rajah Kiſſenchund.

In the Bengal year 1179, the whole Zemindary of your petitioner was put up to auction and taken by the farmers, who agreed to an encreaſe upon the old Jumma 1,17,725 rupees for dawk charges, and for ruſſud najayee (or advanced rents, for which there was no property to anſwer) the further ſum of 1,45,750 rupees, all which they agreed to add into the total of the Jumma, upon their farming the Zemindarry; and Mr. Rider was made Superviſor and Superintendant of the collections; who, notwithſtanding he took all poſſible care and caution to realize the rents of the farm, yet collected only the ſum of 6,14,260 rupees, and never could raiſe the amount of the bundobuſt of the farmers. In the Bengal year 1180, the Gentlemen ſent for me, and again committed the Zemindarry to my charge for years, at the rate of the bundobuſt made at the auction of 1179, together with the encreaſe of ruſſud and auction then ſettled: your petitioner having always the good of the Company in view, and conſidering that, as no Zemindar in Bengal was abſolutely excluded from his Zemindary, I ought no leſs to be proprietor of my own Zemindary, and to endeavour, by an improved cultivation of the lands, to produce a property to anſwer the encreaſe of ruſſud and auction, according to the rate at which the Bundobuſt was fixed, and by this means furniſhing my full quota of the Malguzary, I might hope to acquire myſelf reputation in the ſight of the gentlemen, and convince the Committee of my effectual ſervices, I therefore ageed to that Bundobuſt, and during the time I have held, no efforts, perſonal application, and aſſiduity on my part, has ever been wanting. But the encreaſed amount that was bid at the auction, by ignorant pretenders to the Mahl, and the increaſe of Ruſſud, could by no means be raiſed upon the Zemindarry by any improvement of the lands whatever; notwithſtanding this, your petitioner, anxious to preſerve his own

honour, what with the ſum abſolutely raiſed in the collections, and ſuch ſums as he could contrive to borrow, contrived in that year to pay into the treaſury 7,42,302 rupees, which was 1,28,035 rupees more than the ſum collected by Mr. Rider in 1179; and in the year 1181, with all the endeavours and pains, I found it impoſſible to raiſe any advance upon the actual property in the Mahl, to anſwer the encreaſe ſtipulated upon the auction and ruſſud; and yet I made ſhift to pay to Government for that year 7,65,205 rupees, which was 1,50,938 rupees more than the ſum realized by Mr. Rider 1179; and alſo in the Bengal year 1182, by the moſt aſſiduous and unremitted attention, I was enabled to pay to Government 7,65,239 rupees, which exceeded the collections of 1179 in the ſum of 1,50,962 rupees. In the Bengal year 1183, on account of the former droughts of the years 1181 and 1182, the whole conntry was become extremely ſterile and impoveriſhed; for which cauſe, excluſive of the ſum collected in the diſtrict, I was obliged to borrow the ſum of 50,000 rupees, which enabled me to pay to Government 6,88,874 rupees, a ſum which was ſtill more than that collected in 1179, by 74,607 rupees; ſo that upon the whole collections of the four years 1180, 1181, 1182, and 1183, I made an encreaſe of 5,04,542 rupees, upon the proportion of Malguzarry realized in 1179; and from the beginning of the year 1180 to the end of 1183 I conſtantly took every opportunity of explaining the nature of my ſituation, and the impoſſibility of making any advance of cultivated property in the Mahl to anſwer the encreaſe of auction and ruſſud; and alſo, in many Arzees, ſet forth the damages incurred by the drought, &c. &c. yearly, without exaggeration or diminution; but no enquiry was ever made upon the ſubject, but it remained in ſuſpence: Had an inveſtigation taken place every year, and the accounts been adjuſted accordingly, it would have been a very great ſatisfaction to your petitioner, and a conſiderable relief to the Mahl, and your petitioner would not now appear to have incurred ſo large a balance upon his accounts.—At length, in the year 1783, after your petitioner's repeated intreaties, a ſtatement of your petitioner's grievances and hard circumſtances was ordered for examination to the Khalſa; and out of the repreſentations therein ſet forth, a yearly ſum of 59,670 rupees was aſcertained upon the deficiencies of Ruſſud; and for the loſſes incurred upon the droughts about 12,018 Rs. 15 As; and damages upon various Talooks, to the amount of rupees 8 899; and a miſtake in the addition of the accounts 10,000 rupees; amounting in all to the ſum of

A^s. G^s C

rupees 90,587. 15. 14. 2; which, on the whole accounts of the 4 years, makes the ſum of rupees 3,62,351. 14 annas, or thereabouts, which was allowed by the Supreme Council of Revenue; beſides which, on account of the encreaſe of the auction, Rs. 1,17,415, and on account of the deficiencies of Ruſſud, rupees 78,080, making together 1,95,495 rupees, was at that time not admitted to be ſtruck of: I now humbly intreat the gentlemen to conſider that they have lately moſt equitably given up to whole Zemindarries, ſuch as Rajſhahy, and Denagepore, and Beerbhoom, &c. upon their five years Bundobuſt, their encreaſed Ruſſud, &c. which could no ways be realized for want of property in the Mahls; I alſo flatter myſelf I ſhall meet with the ſame indulgence, and that the amount of the encreaſed Ruſſud and encreaſe of action which had been wantonly raiſed by ignorant and malicious perſons, and is by no means to be conſidered as a part of the juſt and proper jumma (as may be ſeen in the ſeparate ſtatement ready to be produced) may be excuſed and ſtruck of: Upon which equitable and generous withdrawing of theſe two claims, I ſhall no longer remain in balance to the Government, but ſhall even be in advance of payment. Not that I ever pretend to make a claim upon ſuch ſums as ſhall appear to be in advance; but thus far preſume to hope, that the Mutſeddies of Government may be ordered to ſtrike off all that balance for which they now bring me in debtor; as I am become thus unfortunate by various circumſtances, all of which I have at different times repreſented; otherwiſe, if I can find wherewithal to pay my debts, and actual property forthcoming, I will never hereafter give cauſe to the Huzzoor for a repetition of the preſent diſputes and demands; and, in regard to the explanation of my Bundobuſt and Malguzarry, which I have now taken the liberty to make, if the gentlemen will be pleaſed to examine the receipts of 20 years back on account of the Zemindarry, it will ſoon appear wherein I have been deficient, and where I have far exceeded. The gentlemen are now become the diſpoſers of the kingdom, and of our lives and fortunes; I humbly intreat they will take this matter into conſideration, and permit me to enter into a new Bundobuſt according to my petition, that, in this advanced period of my life, I may continue to pray for the proſperity of the Company, and the ſucceſs of the gentlemen our maſters; and having it in my power to pay all the Government's demands, may alſo have wherewithal to ſupport the little remainder of my exiſtence; moreover, whatſoever commands the gentlemen ſhall be pleaſed to honour me with, it ſhall be my firſt and great ſtudy to execute.

Mr.

Mr. Francis.

About this time twelvemonth a remiſſion of near four lacks of rupees was made to the Rajah of Nuddea. On the 15th of laſt month the Board gave orders that Mr. Shore ſhould be directed to make a peremptory demand of the now exiſting balance; and if it was not paid within 14 days, that he ſhould immediately take the management of the diſtrict into his own hands. I do not think that there is the ſmalleſt ground for any further intelligence to the Zemindar. I think that the laſt reſolution ſhould be adhered to, and that if the further ſettlement is made with him, it ſhould be on the ſame footing with the other Zemindars, viz. the average of the collections of the years 1180, 1181, and 1182.—I move, that the petition be rejected; and that the Rajah's ſon, who has been for ſome time paſt in Calcutta, and who I hear has brought down the Zemindary papers with him, may be immediately ordered to return to Kiſhenagur.

Mr. Barwell.

The object of the Board is, in my opinion, to ſecure the current revenue, and to recover the balances due to Government. The Zemindar of Nuddea has not received any indulgences from this Government. The remiſſions that have been given to him, have been upon pleas too incontrovertible for men the moſt inimically diſpoſed to him to ſtart a juſt objection to; he has not been excuſed the ſpeculative increaſe bid upon his lands by the adventurers on the firſt year's jumma. When I look at Rajeſhahy, what a different ſcene preſents itſelf to me!—A Zemindar deprived of her lands for not paying the rents of Government, for being in balance to the amount of near four lacks of rupees, with all the Ruſſed and Lelam Beſhu ſtruck off her rent roll—with no other merits with theſe, heightened by the aſperſions thrown out againſt the firſt characters in the ſettlement, reſtored with a reduced revenue, by the majority of the preſent Government, to the poſſeſſion of her lands, without the leaſt notice taken of the large ſum of near four lacks of rupees that ſhe ſtands at preſent in debt;—I am ſtruck with the diſtinction in the treatment of theſe two Zemindars. Upon a reference back to 20 years account, it will be found that the Ranny of Rajeſhahy has not equalled in her payments, on account of the Bundobuſt of 1179 to 1183; the payments which ſhe has made in ſome preceding years, and that the Rajah of Nuddea has ſo far exerted himſelf, that on a ſimilar review of his payments it will be found, that he has exceeded the rents he formerly paid in a very great proportion,—I am of opinion that this petition ſhould be referred to the Calcutta Committee, that they ſhould be directed to take the moſt ſpeedy and effectual means to ſecure the current revenue, either by an engagement with the Rajah of Nuddea, upon the general principle already laid down, or that they ſhould take inſtant poſſeſſion and charge of the revenue themſelves; but the latter is againſt my ſentiments, for the following reaſons:

The Bahadur harveſt is now come in.—The Rajah's collectors are all in the diſtricts, the revenue is in his hands, and I fear there is not activity and management in the ſervants that may be employed to counteract theſe advantages on the ſide of the Rajah; as to balances due from him, in equity he ought to be judged by the ſame rule that has decided the pretenſions of others If I miſtake not, the Ruſſud of Clum Beſhu has been inſiſted upon for no other Zemindar but that of Nuddea.—This I would leave entirely to the Committee, and whatever by them ſhall be adjudged to be due from the Rajah, I would enforce the payment of by diſpoſing of a part of the Zemindary—He has a right to be heard, and this is all that I recommend. I underſtand that Mr. Shore has not taken charge of the collections, nor attempted it, and that the whole country is at this moment in the hands of Rajah Kiſhen Chund.

Mr. Francis.

I ſhall not at this time enter into a defence of the meaſures purſued by General Clavering Colonel Monſon, and myſelf; perhaps the renewal of any mention of thoſe meaſures now might as well have been omitted. It ſeems to be unneceſſary for any purpoſe of the preſent Government, and cannot come before the Court of Directors unaccompanyed with the idea of the inequality of any conteſt between the Governor General, Mr. Barwell, and me.—With reſpect to the queſtion, I think that Mr. Barwell's opinion contradicts and anſwers itſelf. In the firſt part of his minute he gives ſuch a repreſentation of our conduct towards the Ranny of Rajeſhahy, and pretty apparently of our motives for it, as I imagine will not juſtify the preſent majority in following our example: In the latter part of his minute he ſays, that in equiry the Rajah of Nuddea

Nuddea ought to be judged by the ſame rule that he has decided the pretenſions of others. Our rule then muſt have been an equitable one, or he would not propoſe to follow it. I am however too ſenſible how vain it is for me to enter further into this diſcuſſion. The Court of Directors have all the facts of both the caſes before them; and I reflect with pleaſure, that our conduct, in every inſtance regarding the revenues, has been highly approved of as far as it was known. If the Company would wiſh to inform themſelves more particularly with reſpect to the Zemindary of Nuddea, I beg leave to refer them to our conſultations of 8th October, 1776, in which the whole ſubject is fully inveſtigated. I ſhall only add, that it gives me great pleaſure to obſerve, that the Zemindars in general have recovered ſome of the ground they appeared to have loſt in Mr. Barwell's favour. The Company cannot but remember the character he was pleaſed to give of them, I think in November laſt; and I take notice of this circumſtance with the greater ſatisfaction, becauſe I flatter myſelf, that ſome part of what I ſaid in the courſe of the arguments upon the late plan for a Huſtabood, may have had ſome weight with Mr. Barwell in reſtoring the Zemindars to his good opinion.

Mr. Barwell.

If a fair ſtatement of facts is to arraign meaſures of the late majority, I have certainly arraigned them: Mr. Francis gives me the call, by the manner he related the treatment of the Zemindar of Nuddea.—I ſhall ſay no more to this point—the public will judge how far I have wantonly introduced matter foreign to the ſubject in diſcuſſion. Mr. Francis next proceeds to remark, that I pretty apparently repreſent the motives of the late majority, and that it will . . . . the preſent in following their example.—If Mr. Francis will admit that indulgence was due to the Ranny of Rajeſhahy, it is by a parity of reaſoning equally due to the Rajah of Nuddea—but when he ſays that I quote their rule as an equitable one, I deny that I propoſed to adopt the ſame: My words are—that balances due from the Rajah of Nuddea ought, in equity, to be judged by the ſame rule that has decided the pretenſions of others; and I ſay, if I miſtake not, the Ruſſud and Lelum Beſhu have been inſiſted upon from no other Zemindar but that of Nuddea.—This is a full explanation of the rule alluded to by me.—I did not mean that Company ſhould give up their juſt claim upon the Zemindar, as was done in the caſe of Rajeſhahy, for that Zemindar, excluſive of the remiſſion of the Ruſſed and Lelam Beſhu had, at the time ſhe was reſtored to her lands, a balance to account for of near four lacks of rupees. In my ſentiments, with reſpect to the Zemindars and different landholders of the province, I am not ſenſible of having undergone a change: From circumſtances, and the peculiar ſtate of the collections, the propoſition I have made was neceſſary. Whenever the revenue ſhall be ſo ſimplified as to place the natives in the full independency of a feudal ſyſtem, there will be no longer occaſion for one ſeventieth part of the preſent civil ſervants left to tranſact the weighty and intricate buſineſs of the revenue.

Governor General.

I beg leave to reply ſimply to the motion made by Mr. Francis, and afterwards to that contained in Mr. Barwell's firſt minute. I cannot conſent abſolutely to reject the petition of Rajah Kiſhen Chund, nor, although I ſee no cauſe for having ſummoned the Rajah's ſon to Calcutta, do I approve of his abrupt diſmiſſion. I agree ſimply that the petition be referred to the Calcutta Committee, with directions to report their opinions upon the claims contained in it. With reſpect to the laſt propoſition made by Mr. Barwell, I muſt yet adhere to the reſolution of the Board, as it was ſignified in their orders to the Calcutta Committee, dated 15th Auguſt; namely, "To direct Mr. Shore to inſiſt on the immediate payment of the balance; and in default of it, "within 14 days from the time the demand is made, to *deſire* that gentleman to take the ma"nagement entirely out of his hands, until we ſhall have determined on ſome more effectual "mode of ſecuring the future collections." I too have heard that Mr. Shore has not carried this order into execution, and I think the Calcutta Committee ſhould be ordered to inform us immediately what ſteps have been taken, either by them or Mr. Shore, in conſequence of that order, and their reaſons for forbearance, if none have been taken; that their anſwer may immediately be required, and that it may be ſent round for the information of the Board.—I own I am alarmed at the lapſe of time which has been ſuffered without any ſettlement made or propoſed, and ſhall therefore hope that their anſwer may enable us immediately to conclude it. For this

purpoſe

purpoſe no negociation is neceſſary, if any juſt grounds ſhall be found to admit the Rajah into a new leaſe, as the ſum of his ſettlement may be dictated to him by this Board on the general principle which . . . have adopted.

Reſolved, That the Nuddea petition be tranſmitted to the Calcutta Committee, with the following letter.

To Mr. John Holme, Preſident, &c. Provincial Council of Revenue at Calcutta.

Gentlemen,

We herewith tranſmit you the copy of a petition which has been preſented to us on behalf of the Rajah of Nuddea, and direct you to report to us your opinion upon the claims contained in it.

We deſire you will immediately inform us what ſteps have been taken, either by you or Mr. Shore, in conſequence of our orders of the 15th Auguſt, on the ſubject of the balance due from the Rajah of Nuddea, and your reaſons for the forbearance, if none have been taken.

We are, &c.

Fort William,
5th Sept. 1777.

EXTRACT of Bengal Revenue Conſultations, 23th September 1777.

Mr. Holme, the Preſident of the Calcutta Committee, attending, preſents to the Board Mr. Shore's letter of the 20th September, which is entered as follows.

(COPY.)

To John Holme, Eſquire, Preſident, and to the Gentlemen of the Committee of Revenue at Fort William.

Gentlemen,

Having had the charge of the collections of this diſtrict upon me for ſome days, it becomes neceſſary to give you ſome account of my proceedings.

In making the demands upon the farmers for their rents, I have hitherto been guided by the kiſtbundy accounts of the Rajah; but as they only extend to the end of Bhadoon, I have been obliged to draw out a new kiſtbundy for aſſin myſelf. The cloſe attention, which it has been neceſſary to give to the actual collections, has ſo entirely engroſſed my time, that it has not been poſſible for me yet to prepare the Engliſh accounts of the receipts by the Rajah's officers, but in a very few days I hope to have them compleated, when I ſhall tranſmit them to you, with an account of what I have alſo collected. None of the farmers yet have ſent me their accounts, which has been further productive of delay, and has obliged me to repeat my orders to them in a more poſitive manner, and, in ſome places, to act with ſeverity.

There are five Mhals, Annwepone, Hauly, Sheher, Ballinda, &c. Shekree, and Egolea, from which rupees 43,378 were due by the Cutcherry accounts at the end of Bhudoon; neither have the farmers of theſe places ſent me any accounts yet. I have, therefore, deputed Sezawuls into the four firſt, in order to forward the remittances and accounts. This meaſure it has been abſolutely neceſſary to adopt, and I hope it will ſerve as a warning to the reſt of the farmers, over whom the Rajah's influence extends, and would do ſo in ſuch a degree as to diſappoint my endeavours for the ſervice of my employers, unleſs I enforce my orders with ſome perſonal ſeverity. Immediately on the appointment of a Sezawul a remittance came from Annurpore, and another has ſince arrived from Belliah; but the balance from both theſe places is ſtill very conſiderable.

Here I muſt take the liberty of pointing out to you the neceſſity of a ſpeedy deciſion reſpecting the Bundobuſt. There are many meaſures which the ſecurity of the collections obliges me to take, which the Zemindar, in caſe he is reſtored, will urge as pleas in excuſe for falling into arrears. The deputation of a Sezawul, or aumeen, or a few peons, though in many caſes abſolutely expedient, is of this nature; and his officers even now, on a pretence of interruption given to the revenues, object to any attention paid to the complaints of Ryots. I am very thoroughly ſenſible how much care and management is requiſite in dealing with the Ryots at this ſeaſon; that, on the one hand they may not deſpond, by being altogether neglected, nor, on the other, be tempted to prove refractory; and I endeavour, as much as poſſible, to obſerve the mean, and above all, to diſpatch their buſineſs as ſoon as poſſible.

As to the amount of the ſettlements, of which it may be expected that I ſhould give my opinion, the medium of the receipts for 1180, 1181, and 1182, is, I am convinced, an equitable and moderate ſtandard. This ſum is 7,52,318 rupees, and the diſtrict, from what I can learn, is capable, without any ſtrain, of furniſhing that one year with another, beſides the Zemindar's allowance, and the charges of this eſtabliſhment; and, though much of the ſeaſon is elapſed, provided the Zemindar is obliged to account for what he has collected, I think a ſettlement may even now be made with the farmers here for near the aggregate of theſe ſums. Suppoſing this to take place, the preſent allowance to the Zemindars, under the head of Izardarry Ruſſoom, is not to be included in the charges, and it would not exiſt, but be ſtruck off, as well as his allowance for ſervants. A ſettlement made at the beginning of the ſeaſon on theſe terms, might, I am certain, be realized without prejudice to the country, and the Zemindar, if it was made with him, ought to pay it without balance; you will pleaſe to obſerve, that it is much lower than the late ſettlements: I calculate the whole to be received from the Mofuſſel at about 10,17,000 rupees, as you will ſee by the ſtatement encloſed, to which, for your clearer information, I have added another account, ſhewing the nett amount receivable by the Company for the five laſt years.

I have the ſettlement made by the Zemindar with his farmers for 1184, but it is leſs than that of the laſt year by 12,055. 15. 3. 3, and gives only rupees 9,34,133. 1. 8. 3. If this account were exact, if would refute my arguments; but I am convinced it is not to be depended on; for a Mofuſſil ſettlement of this amount would not pay the Company a nett revenue of ſeventeen lacks. Where the fallacy lies I cannot tell at preſent, but I ſuſpect there are ſeparate agreements for further ſums.

You will alſo pleaſe to obſerve, that the eſtimate I have made of the charges here much exceeds the amount of the preſent eſtabliſhment, as I have included it in the additions it would be requiſite to make, in order to carry on the buſineſs of the collections, ſuppoſing a Mofuſſil ſettlement to take place.

I have been favoured with your letter, confirming the nomination of Mirza Mahomed Ally, and have accordingly inveſted him with the office of Duan.

I am,

Kiſſnagur,
Sept. 20th, 1777.

Gentlemen,

Your very obedient humble ſervant,

(Signed) JOHN SHORE.

A true copy.

(Signed) Wm Haverkam,
Aſſiſtant Secretary C^a C^a R^e.

The

The Board think it equitable, and agree to ſettle the balances of the Rajah of Nuddea, by allowing to him the ſame general remiſſions which were granted to the other capital Zemindars of the province, that is, to the Zemindars of Rajeſhahy, Denagepore, and Beerbhoom; and that the Committee be ordered to make out his account in that manner, applying to the Accomptant General to this department for the information they may be in want of.

Mr. Barwell,

I obſerve in Mr. Shore's letter, that the Sudder payment of the Nuddea diſtrict, for the four years preceding the famine, was on a medium 7,90,890. I deſire Mr. Croftes may be aſked to inveſtigate the fact, and whether this ſum was netted or not in the Khalſa, and to ſtate what ſum was netted.

Governor General,

As the ſeaſon is ſo late, and every day may be productive of great loſſes in the collections, while the ſettlement is longer delayed, I propoſe that this account, with the papers now before us, and the Rajah's petition, be immediately ſent round, as ſoon as the firſt is prepared, to the different Members; and that their opinions may be collected with reſpect to the ſum which ſhall be demanded for the ſettlement of the Rajah of Nuddea, and the mode in which the ſettlement ſhall be formed.

Mr. Francis,

Mr. Shore has already given us his opinion, that the medium of the receipts for 1180, 1181, and 1182, is, "he is convinced, an equitable and moderate ſtandard; this ſum is 7,52,318 ru-"pees, and the diſtrict, from what he can learn, is capable, without any ſtrain, of furniſhing "that one year with another, beſides the Zemindar's allowance, and the charges of the eſtabliſh-"ment." So much of the ſeaſon is already elapſed, that I do not think we can with ſafety defer the ſettlement any longer; I am therefore of opinion, that it ſhould be immediately completed on this footing: If the collections are left with Mr. Shore, he muſt be allowed a clear and undivided authority in the diſtrict, and the Zemindars muſt be obliged to account for any ſums he may have collected from the farmers, on account the revenues of the current year.

Mr. Barwell,

I ſee the neceſſity of immediate ſettlement, both for Nuddea, and the other lands under the charge of the Calcutta Committee; I urged three weeks or a month ago, when the petition of the Rajah came before this Board, and was referred to the Committee with a Darkhaſt for the preſent year; a change of circumſtances has now induced Mr. Francis to be of my opinion; however I ſee no arguments ſo forcibly urged by that Gentleman, as to render it neceſſary to decline a ſettlement with the Rajah upon the accounts I have deſired from Mr. Croftes, but I have no objection to its being decided immediately.

Governor General,

Then I deſire that the Rajah's ſon, Cower Seu Chund, may be ſent for immediately to the Secretary; that he be aſked finally whether he will agree to the nett ſum of 7,52,000 rupees, as the ſettlement of his Zemindary; if he declines it, I ſhall agree to exclude him totally from the charge of the collections, but decline giving any opinion at preſent upon the mode which ſhall be adopted in lieu of it, till we receive his anſwer.

Mr. Barwell,

I agree to it entirely.

Ordered, That the Secretary do ſend for Cower Seu Chund immediately, and report his anſwer as ſoon as he obtains it.

Ordered, That the account required by Mr. Barwell be immediately prepared.

The

The Secretary circulated the following report of the anſwer given by Cower Seu Chund, with the minutes of this day.

Rev. Dep', 26th September, P. M.

In circulation.

Committee of Revenue's letter, and encloſures, with minutes regarding the ſettlement of Nuddea, and the Secretary's report.

(Signed) R. S. Secretary.

The Secretary reports to the Board, That Cower Seu Chund has waited upon him, agreeably to their ſummons, and has conſented to pay the nett ſum of Sa. Rs 7,52,000 as the jumma of this year, provided he is reſtored to the immediate charge of the collections, and Mr. Shore, and the ſervants whom he has entruſted with the management, are immediately recalled.

Governor General.

Cower Seu Chund ſhould be called upon immediately to ſign a temporary engagement. I am of opinion that Mr. Shore ought to be in conſequence recalled, and the Committee directed to put the Rajah in charge of the collections, taking from him the uſual engagements.

(Signed) W. H.

Mr. Barwell,

I think the temporary engagement ſhould be taken, but Mr. Shore ſhould ſettle his account of his receipts with the Rajah of Nuddea. I cannot admit the ſtipulation for the recall of Mr. Shore; it is improper at preſent, and can under no circumſtances be urged as a condition of taking the lands on the part of the Rajah.

(Signed) R. B.

Mr. Francis,

The Governor's laſt motion was made after I left the Committee. I have no faith either in the Rajah or his ſon, and will not agree to any ſettlement with him until he has paid his balance. I totally diſapprove of Mr, Shore's being recalled, as I do of any negotiation with the Rajah's ſon, who has been a month at Calcutta, and has now carried all his points. I diſſent from, and proteſt againſt, the whole tranſaction.

(Signed) P. F.

Agreed, That the following letter be written to the Calcutta Committee of Revenue.

To Mr. John Holme, Preſident, &c. Provincial Council of Revenue at Calcutta.

Gentlemen,

We have received your letter of this date, with the accompanying letters from Mr. Shore.

We direct you to ſettle the balances of the Rajah of Nuddea, by allowing to him the ſame general remiſſions which were granted to the other capital Zemindars of the province, that is to the Zemindars of Rajiſhahy, Denagepore, and Burbhoom. You will therefore draw out the account in the above manner, applying to the Accountant General to this department for the information you may be in want of.

Cower

Cower Seu Chund having agreed to pay the nett ſum of S.. Rs 7,52,000 as the jumma of this year, for the Zemindary of Nuddea, we direct you to inſtruct Mr. Shore to put the Rajah in charge of the collections, taking from him the uſual engagements.

You muſt proceed immediately to make the ſettlement with the other Zemindars of your diviſion, agreeably to the general regulations, without embarraſſing yourſelves with the claims upon them for the balances, leaving thoſe for future adjuſtments.

Fort William,
27th Sept. 1777.

We are, &c.

The Secretary having called upon Cower Seu Chund to execute his agreement, circulated the ſame to the Members; when the above letter was ſent for ſigning.

Tranſlation.

The Gentlemen of the Council having fixed the ſettlement of the Pergunnah of Aukrah, &c. my Zemindary for the preſent year (being 1184) at the ſum of 7,52,000 Rs, free of charges, I acknowledge and give in writing that I freely and voluntarily agree to this ſettlement, and that I will fulfil it agreeable to Killbundy.

I am hopeful that I ſhall be favoured with a Perwannah of confirmation, and that Mr. Shore will be recalled. Written the 13th Affin 1184.

(Signed) MAHA RAJAH RAJINDER,
KISHEN CHUND BAHADUR.

EXTRACT of Bengal Revenue Conſultations of the Year 1779, relative to the Reduction of the Jumma of Burdwan.

EXTRACT of Bengal Revenue Conſultations, the 24th Auguſt, 1779.

READ the following letters and encloſures from the Provincial Council of Burdwan.

To the Honourable Warren Haſtings, Eſquire, Governor General, &c. Council of Revenue at Fort William.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

The contents of your letter to us, of the 20th inſtant, relative to Ranny of Burdwan, having been communicated to her, we have received her reply, copy of which, together with a tranſlation, we have now the honour to encloſe,

The ſeveral ſubjects contained in the Ranny's letter being ſo familiar to you, from ſo many and ſuch late diſcuſſions, we do not therefore deem it neceſſary to trouble you with any remarks thereon; and only beg leave to ſecond her wiſh, that a ſpeedy order may be given for holding the Pooneah, as the ſeaſon for commencing the collections is far advanced, and a longer delay may occaſion inconveniencies, if not loſſes, in the revenues.

The Ranny not having paid any part of the balance due from her, we have this day made public your orders reſpecting the ſale of part of the dower lands for the liquidation of the ſame, and copy of the advertiſement we have forwarded to your Secretary; we likewiſe encloſe a copy for your information. You will obſerve, in the advertiſement, that the conditions of the ſale are to be ſhewn on the day of auction; we have drawn up ſuch as appear to us to be neceſſary, and we encloſe a copy of them, that you may reviſe and correct ſuch parts as may appear to you to be deficient. We apprehend we ſhall meet with ſome difficulty in aſcertaining the neceſſary particulars relative to the ſeveral hoodas, villages, &c. compoſing the turroſt, ſainpaharry, &c. or the burrah dowry; becauſe the accounts containing theſe particulars are not depoſited in the Company's dewan duſtore. This circumſtance is owing to the collections having, for many years paſt, been under the entire management of the late Ranny of Amboa, and the accounts, conſequently, depoſited with her and her officers. Since her death, and ſome time before, the collections have been under the management of Kiſſen Ram Meter, the dewan of the burrah dowry, whom we have called upon for theſe accounts, and have received from him in reply, that "he had acquainted the Ranny with the requeſt of the Gentlemen for "the papers of the dowry, and ſhe had deſired him to inform them, that ſhe had ſent an Arzee "to the Council, that ſhe had complied with their pleaſure, in agreeing to diſcharge the ba- "lances; and that, therefore, the papers required were now unneceſſary; and that, if ſhe did "not pay the money as agreed, ſhe would then comply with the Gentlemen's requeſt." We flatter ourſelves, that in the event of theſe accounts being neceſſary, by a failure on the part of the Ranny of payment of her balance, ſhe will cauſe them to be delivered to us; but ſhould ſhe not, we ſhall be happy to receive your inſtructions for our guidance on this occaſion.

The account of the medium ſum netted into the Treaſury in the year 1180, 1181, and 1182, we have the honour to encloſe.

We are, with great reſpect,

Purdwan, the 28 July, 1779.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

Your's, &c.

(Signed) Wm. MARRIOTT, &c. Council.

From the Ranny to the Chief and Burdwan Council.

I have had the honour to receive the Gentlemen's purwannah, and am thereby acquainted, that the balances upon account of the year 1185, and ½ the balance of 1183 and 1184, muſt be liquidated in the courſe of 20 days; and that in failure of payment, the dowry lands are to be put up to ſale. The Gentlemen are well acquainted, from my former repreſentations on this ſubject, of my inability. If the Zemindar has the means to diſcharge the revenue, he will not be neglectful; but from being without remedy I have been unable to perform my engagements. I had formerly wrote to Colly Perſaud Sing, to pay the balances upon account of the Bengal year 1185, at Calcutta, and have now repeated by orders to him on this ſubject. One half of the balances upon account of the years 1183 and 1184, is annexed to the demand of 1185. I formerly ſuppoſe that the balances due upon account of the two former years would, upon enquiry, appear to have been incurred by the former managers of the revenues, which induced me to repreſent it in a former anſwer on that ſubject.

I am now acquainted that it is the pleaſure of the Gentlemen that I ſhould liquidate this balance, I therefore conſent to the payment of it. The Gentlemen being acquainted with my ability, I have hopes that I may be allowed two months for payment of theſe ſums; ſhould it, however, not be the pleaſure of the Gentlemen to comply with this requeſt, my allowance, &c. may be attached to it; the other half of the balance, upon account of 1183 and 1184, I will diſcharge, agreeably to my former engagement, by the end of Cheite, together with my revenue for 1186. I formerly did, and do now, agree to the bundobuſt of Burdwan, agreeable to the medium of the receipts that have been paid into the Company's Treaſury, for the Bengal years 1180, 1181, and 1182; and comformable to my kiſtbundy for 1186 I will diſcharge the revenue. For the above three years I had the collection of the duties of the Syar Mehals, which was included in the jummah, which does not now exiſt here, being collected at Calcutta from

from the merchants, and perwannahs granted them; upon account of this I requeſt a deduction. In the payment of my monthly allowances there is a deficiency of rupees 47,180; the cauſe of this being reſumed I am a ſtranger to: my family and dependants are numerous, and the amount of my monthly allowances is inadequate to their ſupport; I therefore hope the Gentlemen will make good this deficiency.

The pooneah being late will cauſe a loſs in the collection of the revenues: the Gentlemen having the authority of the country, I requeſt to be favoured with the perwannah and aumil-nama.

A true tranſlation.

Burdwan,
28 July, 1779.

(Signed) HUGH AUSTIN,
Actg Persn tranſlator.

A true copy.

(Signed) Wm. Farquharſon, Secretary.

The Zemindar of Burdwan having entered into engagements for the farming of the province for the year 1185, and the Ranny having given a cabooleat for the revenues, became reſponſible for them.

The balance of the aforeſaid year ſhe has not paid, which is as follows: viz.

Demand for the month of Faugun 1185 - - -	1,64,401	0	0
Do. - for - Chyte Do. - - -	1,54,801	1	4
Account deficiencies of the Chelans, and payments at the Khalſah -	1,06,902	7	0
	4,26,104	8	4
½ of the balances of the year 1183 and 1184, payable, agreeable to the Ranny's cabooleat, in the year 1185 - - -	1,54,544	6	1
	5,80,648	14	5

This balance has been demanded repeatedly, but no part of it has yet been paid, for which reaſon the Honourable Governor General and Council have ordered that the whole balance ſhall be paid within the term of 20 days from the date hereof, and that on failure of payment within that time, as many of the Mhals (comprehended under the names of Burrah Dowry, or Sainpaharry, &c. &c.) as ſhall be ſufficient to liquidate the above balance, ſhall be publicly ſold. Therefore notice is hereby given, that (if the whole of the balance is not paid within the time above ſpecified) the aforeſaid lands will be put up to public ſale, at the Council-houſe in Burdwan, when the conditions of the ſale, and particulars of the lands, will be ſhewn.

Burdwan,
28 July 1779.

By order of the Chief and Council,
(Signed) Wm. FARQUHARSON, Secretary.

Propoſed Conditions of Sale for the Whole or Part of thoſe Lands known by the Name of Burrah Dowry, or Sainpaharry, &c. &c. in the Province of Burdwan.

1ſt. The particular jummah of each purgunnah, village, &c. now compoſing the ſudder jummah of the Burrah Dowry, ſhall be the eſtabliſhed and unalterable revenue.—Poſſeſſion to be adjudged to the perſon who makes the higheſt nuzzerannah, or offer of purchaſe, to Government.

2d. The purchaſer will receive a talookdarry ſunnud, agreeable to the Khalſah Sheriſtah, and is to give a ſimilar cabooleat, and he will obtain poſſeſſion, and pay his rents agreeable thereto.

3d. The

3d. The nuzzerannah, or purchaſe money, ſhall be paid days after the day of ſale, on which the Sunnud and Aumilnama will be delivered.

4th. The eſtabliſhed and fixed revenue which will be ſpecified in the doulpottahs and cabooleats of the purchaſers, ſhall neither be liable to any claims, for decreaſe by the purchaſers, or increaſe by Government.

5th. In thoſe lands that ſhall be ſold, the grants of the Bazzee Zeemen, as Dewitter, Bermutter, Matrawn, Cannabatty, Charity, &c. &c. lands ſhall remain valid, agreeable to the Sheriſtah of the Khalſah.

A true copy.

Burdwan,
the 28th July, 1779. (Signed) Wm. FARQUHARSON,
Secretary.

An ACCOUNT COLLECTIONS made in the Province of Burdwan, on Account of the Bengal Years 1180, 1181, and 1182.

Years.	Collected on the Jumma.	Collected on account the balances of the year, in the succeeding year.	Total collected.	Collected on account Woozen.	Total collected on account revenue and Woozen.	Collected on account petty collections.	Collected on account Jegavy.	Collected on account Poolbundy.	Total of petty collections, Segavy, and Poolbundy.	Total collections account the year's settlement.
1180 —	35,22,897 4 11	2,05,694 0 0	37,28,591 4 11	1,54,903 1 14	38,83,494 6 5	10,090 6 5	40,251 8 0	83,622 8 0	1,34,004 6 5	40,17,498 12 10
1181 —	37,52,788 10 0	82,328 0 0	38,35,116 10 0	1,67,285 0 0	40,02,400 10 0	10,171 12 10	65,945 11 0	98,234 8 0	1,74,351 15 10	41 76,753 9 10
1182 —	38,22,008 0 0	2,725 0 0	38,24,733 0 0	1,73,738 0 0	39,98,471 0 0	8,375 13 0	68,893 0 0	97,452 8 0	1,74,721 5 0	41,73,192 5 0
Rupees -	1,10,97,693 14 11	2,90,747 0 0	1,13,88,440 14 11	4,95,926 1 14	1,18,84,367 0 5	28,657 15 15	1,75,130 3 0	2,79,309 8 0	4,83,077 10 15	1,23,67,444 11 0

Medium on the three years net revenue, without Ouzeen - 37,96,146 15 10 and ½

Medium on the three years revenue and Woozun - 39,61,455 10 15

Burdwan,
25th July, 1779.

(Errors excepted)

(Signed) THO. DOUGLAS,
Accountant.

The Secretary lays before the Board the following letter from the Superintendant of the Khalsa records.

To George Hodgson, Esquire, Secretary to the Council of Revenue.

Sir,

I now beg leave to acquaint you, for the information of the Honourable the Governor General and Council, that there has been paid this day at Khalsa, the sum of 4,15,486 sicca rupees, on account of the balance of revenue due from the Zemindary of Burdwan, for the Bengal year 1185, according to the particulars in the Chelan, signed by the Vacqueel Rooder Ram, of which I enclose you a translation.

There is likewise included in the above chelan, a claim for two months charges for Zemindary Amleh, paid at Burdwan, amounting to - - sicca rupees 10,618
To which is to be added a balance remaining at the Khalsa, on account of the maug kists, of sicca rupees - - - - 12,900
Which sums, taken together, make the sum of 4,39,004, the amount due from the Zemindary of Burdwan for 1185, exclusive of salt, rents, and weezzun.

I am, Sir,

Your, &c.

Khalsa, 23 August, 1779:

(Signed) G. G. DUCARELL,
Supn Ka Records.

CHALLAN of Money on Account of the Tunkah or Assignments of the English Company, from the Purgunnah of Burdwan, &c. in the Bengal Year 1186, made on the 7th of Bhadun.

To the Khalsa, on Account of the Balances of 1185, Bengal Stile, through the Medium of Bhowanny Ghose, and Ray Chum Fontidar, and Rooder Ram Vakeel.

		B. M.	Rs. As.			
1st.	Ready money, 4 bags			1,17,207	0	0
	Gold mohurs, 4 Do.	7,312.	12. 8	1,17,000	0	0
	Total			2,34,207	0	0

Second Hondee, or Bills on the Board of Trade.

			Sa. Rs.			
1st.	Three bills - C. Rs.	3,62,839. 14.	31,279 0 0			
2.	One Do. - -		1,50,000 0 0			
				1,81,279	0	0
	Total remittance -			4,15,486	0	0
3d.	Charges Zemindary for disbursements allowed on account of the Zemindary, the wages of the Amla or Officers, &c. from the month of Phalgun to Cheyte, both inclusive - -			10,618	0	0
	Total chelan - Sicca rupees -			4,26,104	0	0

N. B. The bills on the Board of Trade have been accepted, and are the advances made on account of the investment.

A true translation,
(Signed) J. DUNCAN,
Act Pn Translator.

Read

Read the following reports, and accompanying papers, from the Superintendant of the Khalſa records :

The Superintendant of the Khalſa records, in conformity to the Board's orders of the 30th July, now lays before the Board a draught of the Cabooleat he has prepared for the Ranny of Burdwan.

In forming this draught the Superintendant has endeavoured to collect the ſeveral reſolutions of the Board on the ſubject of the intended ſettlement, and has inſerted them in the beginning, as ſo many ſeparate clauſes.

The remaining clauſes in the draught are agreeable to the general regulations on this ſubject, approved and ordered by the Honourable Board, and according to the form now uſed throughout the provinces.

If this form is approved by the Honourable Board, the ſeveral ſums which the Rannay is to pay muſt be aſcertained, and inſerted in the Cabooleat and Aumilnamah before they are executed.

The Superintendant has received from the Accountant General, a ſketch of the receipts for the years 1180, 1181, and 1182, which he herewith ſubmits to the Board.

(Signed) G. G. DUCARELL,
Supr Ka Records.

Khalſa,
10th Auguſt 1779.

FORM of the Cabooleat propoſed to be executed by the Zemindar of Burdwan for the preſent Year.

Whereas the ſettlement of the pergunnah of Burdwan, &c. has been fixed upon and concluded with me, for the Bengal year 1186—I do therefore covenant as followeth :

I will diſcharge the balance of 1185, amounting to (as it appears from the accounts) immediately upon receipt of my preſent Aumilnamah.

I will diſcharge the balance of the Wuzzun Batta on account of the ſaid year 1185, within three months, reckoning from the 15th June to the 15th September, amounting to
the preſent ſettlement, including the Wuzzun Batta, being formed on the medium of the collections of the three years 1180, 1181, and 1182, amounting to
I will pay the ſame agreeable to the kiſtbundy.

The balance on account of the year 1183, which was made payable in 1185, being
I will pay up by kiſtbundy, in two days from the date of the preſent Aumilnamah.

The balance on account of 1184, amounting to I will make good by kiſtbundy, before the end of the enſuing month of Cheyte.

So long as I ſhall pay the ſtipulated jumma of the ſettlement, I ſhall remain in poſſeſſion of and in the management of my Zemindary, the ſame as other Zemindars.

I will behave in a ſatisfactory manner to the Ryots, and by cultivation and improvement encreaſe the produce of the country.

I will punctually and without evaſion pay the preſent revenue, as well as the balances of the aforeſaid years, agreeable to the chabooleat, and kiſtbundy which I have executed and delivered in

in to the public dufter; and I will ſet up no claims nor pretenſions for future deductions on the above accounts.

I will not exact from the Ryots, durry, mangum, ſoode, or ſuch other articles of collection as have been prohibited by Government; but will only collect ſuch articles as were uſually received to the end of the Bengal year 1178, without demanding on any pretence more.

I ſhall not collect any balances of former years from the Ryots, excepting upon authority being given me by Government; I will in ſuch caſe collect any balances which may appear upon examination due from the Ryots to former farmers, and pay the amount whenever I may be ordered.

I will not reſume any dawſitter, bermutter, mohteram, ayma, muttdudmauſh, peeram, takeran, lakherge and daihatiſtimrar, lands, gardens or tanks, without authority from Government, or on the other hand, make any new grants of the ſaid nature, without a ſunnud being obtained for the ſame from Government.

I will be watchful over the King's highways, ſo that travellers may be able to paſs and repaſs them in ſafety and ſecurity, and will not give refuge to thieves or robbers within my limits. If, which God forbid, any perſon ſhall be robbed, I will procure him the recovery of his property, and deliver over the thieves or robbers to the Officers of Government.

I will not collect from the Ryots the articles of marocha, bazz, jumma, poolbundy, &c. which have been prohibited by Government, and allowed for in the former ſettlements.

I will adjuſt the Ryots accounts at the end of the year, and grant them daehillas or receipts for the different kiſts which they may have paid during the year.

I will not collect any nuzzer ſelamy, or tawary from the Ryots.

In caſe I ſhould fall in arrears in the payment of theſe my ſtipulated engagements, and be unable otherwiſe to pay the ſame, I hereby agree, that a part of my Zemindary, proportionate to the amount, ſhall be ſold, to make good ſuch arrears.

(Signed) G. G. DUCAREL,
Supt Ka Records.

Khalſa,
10th Auguſt 1779.

ACCOUNT

ACCOUNT shewing the Nett Revenue of the Burdwan Province.

Stated from an Average of the Nett Receipts for the Year 1180, 1181, and 1182.

	Groſs Collections.	Deduct Charges Collection, Zemindary, and Charges General.	Nett Receipts.
1180 —	40,22,373 13 5 -	5,75,476 5 10 -	34,46,897 7 15
1181 —	41,76,753 9 10 -	6,42,174 15 — -	35,34,578 10 10
1182 —	41,86,334 11 10 -	6,54,372 1 4 -	35,31,962 10 6
Sicca rupees —	1,23,85,462 2 5 -	18,72,023 5 14 -	1,05,13,438 12 11
Medium of the Groſs collections	41,28,487 6 1 2	Average of the charges — 6,24,007 12 11 1	

Deduct the following ſums included in the receipts of the three years, but which make no part of the preſent collections; viz.

Tuckavy and Poolbundy, for 3 years	Sa rupees —	4,67,439 11 —	
Petty collections, Bakee Jummah, Dedare Selamee, and Sutty Mehal Haſſil, for 3 years, aboliſhed by order of Council - - -		28,637 15 15	
Cannengoes Ruſſoom, inſerted by miſtake in the receipts - - - -		4,875 — 15	
Gain on batta, making no part on the preſent revenue		142 6 10	
			5,01,095 2 —
Total 3 years nett receipts, after the above deductions — S. R.			1,00,12,343 10 11 —
Average of 3 years nett receipts - -		Sicca rupees	33,37,447 14 3 2

(Errors excepted)

(Signed) CHARLES CROFTES,
Accomptant General to the Rev. Depart.

Fort William,
the 9th Auguſt 1779.

The Superintendant of the Khalſa records reports to the Board the following differences, ſtated by Colly Perſaud Sing, Dewan of Burdwan, againſt the account of receipts delivered by the Accountant General of the Revenue Department, under date 9th Auguſt 1779; viz.

1ſt. Pran Kiſhen Mitter, and Birjeehiſhour Roy, received credit at Burdwan, in the year 1182, for the ſum of 18,756 12 10, which was never paid at the Treaſury; the medium is - - - - 6,252 4 3

The Superintendant does not know of any ſuch ſum remaining in diſpute. Bowny Mitter and Birjekiſhour Roy have a demand againſt them for an arrear of a chelan of about 10,000 rupees, which they have never paid.

The Board will be pleaſed to direct, whether the Zemindar ſhall receive credit for the medium of this in his receipts.

2d. He objects to the balance of 1182, received in 1183, being included in the medium receipts, which amount to - - - - Rs. 1,71,248 4 10

The medium of which is - - - - - 57,094 12 3

3d. He objects to the ſum of - - - - - 53,564 7 1

Repaid to Gocul Goſaul, on adjuſtment from the receipts of Polloſpoy, being included in the medium; the 3d part of which is — — 17,854 13 —

4th. He objects to the Syer Chilke, received in 1180, 1181, and 1182, being included in the medium, as being now ſtruck off. The amouut ſtated is - - - - - - 2,48,637 5 8

The medium of which is - - - - 82,879 1 16

The whole amount for 3 years is - - - - - 4,92,242 12 9

The medium of which is - - - - 1,64,081 — — Rup.

(Signed) G. G. DUCAREL,
Supt Ka Records.

Khalſa,
24th Auguſt 1779.

The Board are agreed on the following reſolutions on the ſeveral articles of objections, ſtated by the Dewan of Burdwan in the Superintendant's report above recorded.

N° 1.—That the third part of the ſum due from Birjekiſhour and Bowanny Mitter, whatever it may be, and which has not been received into the Treaſury, be not included in the three years receipts, or form a part of the enſuing jumma.

N° 2.—Refuſed; becauſe the balance of 1179 is not included, nor makes a part of the receipts of 1180.

N° 3.—Granted, for whatever ſum may have been repaid by adjuſtment to Gocul Goſaul, as not making a part of the receipts of the revenue.

N° 4.

N° 4.—Granted, for whatever ſum may appear to have been collected on account of thoſe duties, and included in the receipts for 1180, 1181, and 1182.

Agreed, That theſe adjuſtments being formed, and the exact medium aſcertained, the amount be inſerted in the Cabooleat, as the jumma of the Zemindary of Burdwan, that the Cabooleat be received, and the Aumilnamah executed and delivered to the Dewan.

And that an Amildary Purwannah be immediately granted, and the Dewan called upon to ſign the Cabooleat; and that it be tranſmitted to the Ranny of Burdwan for the ſame purpoſe, and that the Kiſtbundy be executed in the uſual manner.

The Dewan of Burdwan, Collyperſaud Sing, being called before the Board, is informed of the foregoing reſolution.

EXTRACT of Bengal Revenue Conſultations, 31ſt Auguſt 1779.

BURDWAN.

Mr. Francis.

It appears by the account collections of the years 1180, 1181, and 1182, tranſmitted to us by the Provincial Council, in their letter of the 28th July, that the medium of thoſe three years collections, including the Wozzun, and excluſive of all petty collections, Tegavy, and Poolbundy, amounted to ſicca rupees 39,61,455. 11. This ſum was received net into the Company's Treaſury, the only charge upon it, which ought to be deducted from it in the preſent ſettlement with the Zemindar, is his annual allowance of four lacks which leaves the net jumma to be paid by the Zemindar ſicca rupees 35,61,455. 11.

The other charges, called charges collections, and charges general, are and have been diſburſed by the Company, and the greateſt part of the amount is paid to the Company's ſervants and officers. If theſe eſtabliſhments are to be continued, they muſt ſtill be paid by the Company. If they are diſcontinued, the amount ought to be a ſaving in the Company's Treaſury; the Zemindar can have no claim to deductions from the net jumma, which the Company has always received, on account of eſtabliſhments which they themſelves have always paid out of it.

For theſe reaſons I diſſent from, and proteſt againſt, the intended reduction of the jumma, by which the Company will loſe the annual ſum of ſicca rupees 3,30,993. 15; viz.

Difference between Mr. Croftes's ſtatement and that of the Burdwan Council - - - - -	Sa Rs	2,24,007	13 —
Amount of farther deductions from Mr. Croftes's ſtatement, as per reſolution of the Board of the 24th inſtant - - - - -		1,06,986	2 —
	Sicca rupees —	3,30,993	15 —

which annual ſum of three lacks thirty thouſand nine hundred and ninety-three ſicca rupees, I conſider as ſo much of the Company's property given away by the majority of the preſent Board.

27th Auguſt 1779. (Signed) P. FRANCIS.

31ſt

31ſt Auguſt.

Mr. Wheler.

The account given in by Mr. Francis differing ſo materially from that which was preſented to the Board by Mr. Croftes, and which I confeſs I had no opportunity to inveſtigate, renders it neceſſary for me to retract my aſſent to that part of our proceedings of the 24th of this month, which ſtates the abatements to, and final ſettlement with, the Ranny of Burdwan, until ſome Members of the Board ſhall endeavour to convince me that the accounts now ſubmitted by Mr. Francis are erroneous, or that thoſe on which we decided are more to be depended upon.

Mr. Barwell.—It is an eaſy matter, by a perverſion of facts, to lead to error. The minute before me, though not in expreſs terms, charges a deceit of ſuch criminal nature on the Accountant, that it ought to be followed by a motion ſpecifying the delinquency, and demanding the anſwer of the Accomptant to it, that guilty of any breach of the truſt repoſed in him, he may be diſmiſſed from his office, and if not guilty acquitted; but it does not appear to me to be the object of this minute to correct abuſe, it ſeems rather to impoſe it.—The reſolutions of the Board are, that, Firſt, the jummah of Burdwan ſhall be fixed agreeably to the rule that has been fixed for regulating the jummah of every part of Bengal, viz. that after the deduction of every charge defrayed, the reſidue, or net receipts, on a medium of three years, ſhall conſtitute the rent. Mr. Francis is underſtood by Mr. Wheler to affirm, or ſurely that gentleman would not have retracted his aſſent given on the laſt day, that the net amount, clear of all charges, exceeds the ſum ſtated by Mr. Croftes. I call upon Mr. Francis to aſſert this, and to bring the proof forward on which he builds this aſſertion; for the manner in which the affirmation appears in the minute is a glaring deception, and any perſon who will be at the trouble of reading the account of the revenue netted after the charges are paid, will be ſatisfied it is ſo.—It was further reſolved, that thoſe offices which had been tranſlated from the Zemindar when the collections of the revenue were made by the Provincial Council, ſhould return with the collections to the Zemindar; if theſe officers are connected with the revenue, and muſt remain annexed to it, the Zemindar of Burdwan, like all the other Zemindars of Bengal, muſt ſupport thoſe eſtabliſhments, and diſcharge the expences of them. When the Company, through the medium of their ſervants, were the Collector, they diſburſed the charge of theſe inſtitutions; and ſo far Mr. Francis is right, as he affirms theſe diſburſements were made by the Company from the revenue; if he had ſhewn in what manner they ever had or could be ſaved to the Company, he might then indeed with propriety affirm the ſum of ſo many lacks of rupees to be taken from the Company's treaſury, as he is pleaſed to ſtate in the preſent inſtance, to be given up by a vote of the majority, a fact I deny, becauſe it never was a part of the net revenue brought to the Company's treaſury, no more than the four lacks per annum paid to the Zemindar. When ſuch arguments and ſuch means are deſcended to to impeach the rectitude of a proceeding, the principle on which the oppoſition is made requires no comment to determine the judgment of a diſcerning reader—I refer to the papers on record as a full refutation of Mr. Francis.

COPY of Minutes of Warren Haſtings, Eſquire, and John Macpherſon, Eſquire, in the Revenue Department, relative to the Increaſe of the Revenues; dated in December 1782.

EXTRACT of Bengal Revenue Conſultations, the 20th December 1782.

THE following minute, and papers accompanying, having been received from the Governor General, they were circulated to the Members of the Board; who approving of the ſame, they were accordingly ſent numbers by the Lively's packet.

Governor

Governor General.

I lay before the Board a letter from Mr. Shore, the acting Preſident of the Committee of Revenue, addreſſed to me, with the comparative ſtate of the collections of the Bengal years 1187 and 1188, ending in April laſt; and I deſire that theſe may be ſent a number in the packet now under diſpatch.

My motive for tranſmitting this account is to obviate the fallacious concluſions which are drawn from ſimple accounts of the actual collections, with their balances: I have obſerved, that more ſtreſs is laid on the latter than on the former, and have ſeen alluſions made to the balance, as to a total loſs of ſo much of the public revenue. I have ſeen compariſons made between the balance of one year and the balance of another, for the purpoſe of criminating the adminiſtration under which the heavier balance had occurred. I wiſh it may be in my power to demonſtrate the deception produced by this mode of reaſoning, which cannot be better effected than by a plain and brief view of the ſubject.

It is impoſſible to conceive any ſyſtem of revenue ſo perfect as to enſure the entire receipt of it at the cloſe of the year. Balances ever muſt and ever will happen, but they drop into the next year's demands, of which they become a part, are collected with them, and theſe again become in like manner deficient, and their deficiency is carried forward to the ſubſequent year; but the balance of each year comprizes both the deficiencies of the current collections, and what remains of the balances of one, two, or it may be of many preceding years, of courſe each year contains part of the balance of the preceding year with its own; hence it follows, that no fair compariſon can be made of the balances of two adjoining years, for if the jumma and collections were equal in both, the balance (as has been ſhewn) would be greater in the laſt. In effect the true ſtate of the revenue can only be formed on a view of the actual receipts of one year, brought into compariſon with thoſe of another; and ſo far is the ordinary practice of eſtimating the revenue by the balance from truth, that it is the very reverſe, ſince it will be found generally, if not invariably, the fact, when no extraordinary calamity has happened to create an unuſual failure in the collections, that the heavieſt balances have always appeared when the collections have been the greateſt, and in effect the former may always be taken as a ſure indication of the latter, as will appear from plain deduction, even without a reference to poſitive evidence; for in the ordinary courſe the balances will neceſſarily bear a proportion to the jumma or eſtabliſhed rent, conſequently the higheſt jumma will have the greateſt balance. I do not know how I can make this point clearer by reaſoning, but I have appealed to facts, which will place it beyond all poſſibility of doubt. I ſhall illuſtrate theſe obſervations by an example, drawn from the account now before us.

By this account it appears that the balance of 1187 was	—	15,63,989	4	3	2
and of 1188	—	31,70,767	3	10	1
Balance due on both years	—	—	47,31,756	7	13	3

Though theſe balances are true in account, yet any interference drawn from them, and applied as an eſtimate of the decline or improvement of the revenues, would be unjuſt and erroneous, becauſe the amount collected of the balance of 1187 in 1188 is deducted from that balance, ſo that in fact there are two years collections on the demand for 1187, whereas there are only 12 months collections on that of 1188; and it may be reaſonably ſuppoſed, that in the ſucceeding 12 months the balance of 1188 will be conſiderably reduced; which, on a reference to the comparative ſtate, will be found already true in fact, for it appears that the balance of 1188 was actually reduced by collections made from the end of Choyl 1188, or 11th April 1782 (the period to which the above ſtate was cloſed) to the end of Cautic 1189, or 11th November 1782, to the ſum of ſicca rupees 20,81,866. 6. 6. The only other method of ſtating the balances is as they ſtood at the cloſe of each year, without the deduction of the receipts of the ſucceeding years, which the memorandum at the foot of the account ſhews to be as follows—

Balance at the cloſe of 1187, Sicca rupees	-	-	25,42,657	6	19	1
Dº — at the cloſe of 1188	—	-	-	31,70,767	3	10	1

But if a judgement is formed of the collections from the balances, even by this mode of ſtating them it muſt be equally fallacious, for by that criterion there is an abſolute realized gain of ſicca rupees 20,73,984. 5. 8. 3, as ſtated in the account. I know of no other method of ſtating balances than thoſe I have here mentioned; and I am convinced that it muſt appear clear and evident that the difference between the balance of one year and that of another is a very improper method of judging of the ſucceſs of the collections. I repeat, that a judgement of them can only be formed by comparing the ſum actually realized in one year with that actually realized in another, to which muſt be added the decreaſe of charges of collecting.

Judging by this ſtandard, I may ſafely aver that the real increaſe of the revenue amounts to the ſum above mentioned; viz.

Increaſe of the collections - -		20,73,984	5	8	3
Decreaſe on the charges of collecting - -		4,06,728	10	2	—
	Sa Rs	24,80,712	15	10	3
And as the charges of the adminiſtration of criminal juſtice have always been inſerted in the revenue accounts, I ſhall here add the ſaving made in that department, as ſtated in the plan delivered in by me the 29th of June - -		7,59,438	—	—	—
Total increaſe of the land revenue — Sicca rupees		32,40,150	15	10	3
or C. rupees		37,58,575	2	—	—

In the general letter of the 27th of November, increaſe of revenue from the ſalt office was ſtated at 29,93,132. 2. 14. 3; this was taken from an eſtimate delivered in by the Comptroller. Since that eſtimate was formed, the greateſt part of the ſalt has been ſold; and I have received another account from him, which alſo accompanies this minute, and in which he ſtates the profit of ſalt at - - - - Sa Rs 48,15,703 13 7 —

From which may be deducted the anuual revenues formerly realized from ſalt, as ſtated by the Accomptant General of the Revenue Department - - -		7,23,934	8	2	—
Remains a clear increaſe of annual revenue of -	Sa Rs	40,91,769	12	18	2
	or C. rupees	47,46,452	15	—	7

This eſtimate being formed on ſales actually made, it muſt be correct; and it appears, that the profit has greatly exceeded the expectations of the Comptroller, when he delivered in his laſt eſtimate, from which the above-mentioned ſum of ſicca rupees 29,93,132. 2. 14. 3 was ſtated

I ſhall cloſe this minute by ſtating the increaſe which has actually been made in the revenue branch, as it has been proved by the preceding calculations: I include the profit on the ſalt, although formed on a compariſon of a more remote period than that of the land revenue, becauſe it is the effect of a new and improving ſource, which, until the year 1187, yielded a very ſcanty and precarious revenue, and even that annually declining; and which was improved in the ſucceeding year, 1188, and will moſt probably be made to yield a ſtill greater increaſe of income.

I ſhall add the profit ariſing to the Company from the reduction on the price of the articles of which the inveſtment is compoſed, becauſe it muſt be conſidered as an increaſe of income to the Company in Europe; and it is a particular ſatisfaction to me, to find that the whole amounts to upwards of one million ſterling per annum.

The

The increaſe is as follows:

On land revenue, as before ſtated	Sa Rs 32,40,150 15 10 3; or, C. Rs	37,58,575 2 2 —
On ſalt Do - - -	Sa Rs 40,91,769 12 18 2; or, C. Rs	47,46,452 15 7 —
	C. Rs	85,05,028 1 9 —
To this I add the reduction in the coſt of inveſtment, which I eſtimate at - - - - - -		12,00,000 — — —
Total increaſe of annual income to the Company -	C. Rs	97,05,028 1 9 —

Making, at the Company's exchange of two ſhillings and a penny for the current rupee, the ſum of pounds ſterling one million ten thouſand nine hundred and forty-eight eight ſhillings ſix pence and three farthings.

(Signed) WARREN HASTINGS.

To the Honourable Warren Haſtings, Eſquire, Governor General, &c. &c. &c.

Honourable Sir,

In obedience to your commands, I beg leave to lay before you a comparative ſtate of the collections of the Bengal year 1187, or 1780–1, with thoſe of the Bengal year 1188, or 1781–2; to which I have annexed an account of each year's balance, ſtated ſeparately as it ſtood at the cloſe of the year, with the collections made in the ſucceeding year, to the end of Cheyt 1188; and alſo the preſent ſtate of the balance of 1188.

I have the honour to be,

With great reſpect,

Honourable Sir,

Your moſt obedient and

Moſt humble Servant,

(Signed) J. SHORE,
Acts P. Com. Rs.

Calcutta,
8th December, 1782.

COMPARATIVE

COMPARATIVE STATE of the Collections of the Bengal year 1187 or 1780-1, with thoſe of the Bengal year 1188, or 1781-2.

	Balance in Arrears.	Demand of the Current Year.	Total Demand.	Collected within the 12 Months.	Balance.
1187. From 1ſt Byſack to 30th Cheyt – Sa Rs	12,87,327 10 6 2	2,57,05,804 13 6 0	2,69,93,132 8 2 2	2,38,90,681 11 9 0	31,02,450 12 13 2
1188. From 1ſt Byſack to 30th Cheyt – Sa Rs	31,02,430 12 13 2	2,78,85,420 11 3 0	3,09,87,871 7 16 2	2,59,64,666 0 17 3	*A.* 50,23,205 6 18 3
Increaſe made in the year 1188 - -	— —	— —	— —	20,73,984 5 8 3	
Add decreaſe in the charges of collecting	— —	— —	— —	4,06,728 10 2 0	
Total increaſe made in the year 1118	— —	— —	— —	24,80,712 15 10 3	
				or Ct Rs 28,77,627 0 9 0	

A. In order to form a juſt compariſon, the balance of 1186 muſt be deducted from the accumulated balance of 3 years, as ſtated above; which will make the balance of the two laſt years ſtand thus:

Balance, as above, or 1186, 1187, 1188	— —	Sa Rs	50,23,205 6 18 3
Deduct balance of 1186 —	Sa Rs	12,87,327 10 6 2	
Of which was collected in 1187 and 1188		9,95,878 11 1 2	
Balance of 1186	— — —		2,91,448 15 5 0
Remains the balance of 1187	Sa Rs	15,60,989 4 3 2	47,31,756 7 13 3
And of 1188	-	31,70,767 3 10 1	

Fort William, the 8th December 1782.

(Errors excepted)

(Signed) J. SHORE, Acts P. C. R.

ACCOUNT of each Year's Balance, ſtated ſeparately as it ſtood at the cloſe of the Year, wit the Collections made in the ſucceeding Year, to the end of Cheyt 1188, or 1781-2.

	Balance at the Cloſe of each Year.	Deduct that Part of the Balance of 1187 realized 1188.	Balance of each Year, to the end of Cheyt.
1187 —	*B.* 25,42,657 6 19 1	9,81,668 2 15 3	15,60,989 4 3 2
188 —	31,70,767 3 10 1		

B. This balance is ſeparated from the balance of 1186, which, at the end of 1187, was 5,59,793. 5. 14. 1; and both together, make up the accumulated balance of 1187, as it is ſtated in the preceding account.

PRESENT STATE of the Balance of 1188.

Balance of 1188, as it ſtood at the cloſe of the collections of that year, the 30th of Cheyt, or 11th April 1782 - - - -				31,70,767	3 10 1
Deduct collections realized on account the above balance, from 11th April 1782, to the end of Cautick 1189, or 11th November 1782 - - - - - -				10,88,900	13 4 1
Remaining balance, account the year 1188 -	S. Rs	20,81,866	6 6 0		

Fort William,
the 8th Dec. 1782.

(Signed) J. SHORE,
Acting P. C. Re.

To the Honourable Warren Haſtings, Eſquire, Governor General, &c. &c.

Honourable Sir,

In obedience to your orders, I lay before you a comparative account of the produce of the ſalt, in the two firſt years of the Honourable Company's manufacture; I judge that the profit of the ſecond year, being 1188, will be about 48 lacks of ſicca rupees.

Salt Office,
the 3d December, 1782.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) HENRY VANSITTART,
Comptroller.

COMPARATIVE ACCOUNT of the Amount and Produce of the Salt of 1187 and 1188, Bengal Style.

	Bengal Year 1187.		Bengal Year 1188.		Increaſe 1188.	
	Salt.	Produce.	Salt.	Produce.	Salt.	Produce.
	Mds. Sr. Ce.	Sa. Rs. As. P.	Mds. Sr. Ce.	Sa Rs. As. P.	Mds. Sr. Ce.	Sa. Rs. As. P.
Hidgellee — — —	5,31,550 7 8	8,25,591 2 3	9,05,321 28 —	14,25,733 9 5	2,73,771 20 8	6,00,142 7 2
Jumlook — — —	5,08,798 20 8	8,18,135 12 11	8,01,694 23 —	14,77,597 1 6	2,92,896 2 8	6 59,461 4 7
24 Pergunnahs — — —	5,78,943 17 8	10,55,742 5 3	7,74,364 — —	16,34,676 10 3	1,95,420 22 8	5,78,934 5 —
Roymungul — — —	2,75,718 — —	5,15,630 4 9	4,02,604 — —	8,13,268 6 11	1,26,886 — —	2,97,638 2 2
Bulwah — — —	2,64,218 10 12	4,99,621 2 6	6,13,077 36 —	11,12,503 1 6	3,48,859 25 4	6,12,886 15 —
Chittagong — — —	72,230 — —	1,08,323 — 9	92,000 — —	1,51,920 — —	19,770 — —	43,596 15 3
Total —	22,31,458 16 4	48,23,043 12 5	34,89,062 7 —	66,15,703 13 7	12,57,603 30 12	27,92,660 1 2

N. B. Sold — Mds. 27,74,062 7 amounting to Sa. Rs. 51,47,203 13 7
Unſold — 7,15,000 — valued at — 14,68,500 — —

Mds. 34,89,062 7 Produce — 66,15,703 11 7
Deduct — 18,00,000 — —

Remains Profit on Salt 1188 — Sa. Rs. 48,15,703 13 7

Errors excepted.

Salt Office, 2d December 1782.

(Signed) HENRY VANSITTART,

Comptroller.

The

The following minute having been delivered by Mr. Macpherſon, in conſequence of the preceding one from the Governor General, it was alſo ſent in circulation, and forwarded a number by the ſame diſpatches.

Mr. Macpherſon's minute.——I moſt ſincerely congratulate the Company, and the Governor General, upon the ſubject of the minute which he has this day preſented to the Board. and which ſhews an increaſe in the revenues collected laſt year, with a decreaſe in the expences of collection, which, together with the reduction in the prime coſt of the new inveſtment, conſtitute to the Company a real acquiſition in their reſources, of one million ten thouſand nine hundred and forty-eight pounds eight ſhillings and ſix-pence ſterling.

Every candid reaſoner muſt admit the force of the arguments which the Governor General adduces, to prove that the increaſe in net collections, and not the comparative balances of different years, forms the criterion by which the proſperity of the revenue ſhould be eſtimated; but as there is no ſubject of public advantage which the ſubtilty of argument cannot place in an unfavourable light, and as even an increaſe or revenue may be impeached, as proceeding from too rigid a ſyſtem of collection, I will take the liberty to ſolicit the Company's attention to what is unqueſtionably and indeed evidently very worthy of their conſideration in the facts contained in the Governor General's minute.

The Company now ſee, for the firſt time, I believe, ſince the inſtitution of this Government, the firſt officer of their adminiſtration laying before them, through the channel of this Board, a minute founded upon regular calculation, which ſhews that the reſources of theſe provinces are virtually encreaſed, and in times of general difficulty, to the amount of a million ſterling per annum.

Let the ſevereſt ſcrutiny take place in examining the calculation, and let every partial ſcrutiny reduce the ſum to the halfor the third of its eſtimate.

The conſideration important to the Company and the public is, that even ſo reduced an eſtimate ſhould ſtand in teſtimony of the proſperity of theſe provinces, and of the faithful attention of the adminiſtration, at a criſis of univerſal diſtreſs, if not miſmanagement, in the other poſſeſſions of the Company. I venture to call this great increaſe of the Company's revenue the firſt fruits of that harmony and union upon public principle, which have for upwards of twelve months paſt actuated the conduct of the Board, and given full exertion to the abilities of every Member of it, and particularly to the zeal and knowledge of the Governor General. For my own part I claim little merit, but that of aſſiſting the good intentions and experience of my colleagues; I owe them much in having received my opinions, even when they might differ from theirs, with not only complaiſance but with kindneſs; and here I ſhould not omit my very particular obligations to the Member whom I found in charge of this Government upon my arrival, and with whom I acted for a conſiderable time before the return of the Governor General to the preſidency; to him I owe a clear view of our revenues and manufactures, with the candid and liberal explanation of our political ſituation at the time.

On a review of what has been the material reſult of the internal adminiſtration of the laſt year, theſt declarations of private approbation, and which ſtand in ſo near a relation to the Company's proſperity, are not, I hope, improper or miſplaced.

May the future records of the Company exhibit more frequent inſtances of them, and eſpecially in times of general danger like the preſent!

As a ſupplement to the Governor General's minute, and in further teſtimony of the advantages which the Company derive from an united adminiſtration in their controuling preſidency, under the direction of animated public zeal and great talents, I beg here to ſubjoin an extracted account, ſigned by the acting Accountant General, which ſhews that the efforts of this Government to ſupport the other preſidencies in ſupplies of money, proviſions, and military ſtores, have been ſuch as muſt draw the admiration of our employers.

Previous to my arrival in India, theſe efforts of ſupply were great and well-timed, eſpecially in the Carnatic; but the very increaſe of the reſources, which the Governor General has ſtated in his minute, and the ſeverity with which the late Reſident, and the ſubſequent Acting Reſi-

dent

dent at Oude, were called upon to do their duty to the Company, have been the ſources from which our ſupplies in favour of the other preſidencies have been chiefly derived.

The total amount of theſe ſupplies, from the 30th September 1781, to the 1ſt of November 1782, appears to be current rupees — — 2,35,70,007 2 2

It is to be remarked, that in order to complete theſe ſupplies, the Company have not been ſubjected to extraordinary drafts by bills on Europe, nor to loans in addition to the bonded debt.

The abilities of this Government could not go farther in aiding the preſidencies of fort St. George and Bombay, but by recommending a plan of co-operation againſt their common enemies, which was early and forcibly preſſed upon them, but which, though repeatedly urged, has not been hitherto carried into execution. The iſſue of the war in the Carnatic will ſhew whether upon any other plan our enemies can be repelled.

The conſtitutional powers of this Government, as well as its practical exertions of aſſiſtance, could not be extended to further operation; and fortunately the Maratta war, with which it was cuſtomary to connect every miſmanagement in India, has been virtually cloſed from the 18th October, 1781.

No hoſtility has been committed between the Marattas and the Company from that period; on the contrary, a peace has been concluded, which, in the delay of its final formality, leaves the Company in the poſſeſſion of thoſe reſources which at once give us the power of defence, and withholds from them that of hoſtility. This is the tenure for peace, with an Aſiatic ſtate the moſt ſecure, eſpecially as it is founded in juſtice on our part, and diviſion, or an oppoſition of intereſts, among them.

To place the proceedings of this Government in their merited and moſt ſatisfactory point of view, nothing is wanting but a completion to the great undertaking of reform and retrenchment of the public expence, which was begun in June laſt, which was carried on with the moſt impartial juſtice, but which the interruptions of ill health have cruelly ſuſpended.

It is upon this foundation that the moſt valuable encreaſe of revenue and reſource can be ſecured to the Company and the nation: Much has been already done, but it is only a beginning, and the work before us is arduous, but it is full of public honour, for it conſtitutes the public ſafety.

The aid which the Board have lately acquired, in the abilities, firmneſs, local knowledge, and co-operating diſpoſition of a new Member, warrants us in aſſuring the Company that nothing within the utmoſt compaſs of the zeal and abilities of this adminiſtration ſhall be left undone in promoting the moſt active internal œconomy, and maintaining our diſtant dependencies with the moſt liberal zeal.

The regulations and arrangements neceſſary at home to give ſucceſsful efficacy to the views and operations of a Government acting upon ſuch principles, depend not upon the conduct, though they conſtitute the wiſhes of this Board; it is our duty to hope, and even to believe, that where our meaſures are founded upon prudence and good intentions, they will meet with ſupport; nay, it is our duty, if not our right, to be confident that the juſtice of our employers, and of our country, is ultimately unerring, even if it ſhould be interrupted by miſinformation.

(Signed) MACPHERSON.

ABSTRCT

ABSTRACT ACCOUNT of Supplies from the Bengal Government to the Presidencies of Fort St. George and Bombay, from the 30th September, 1781, to the 1st December 1782, comprehending Fourteen Months.

To Fort St. George — — —	Current rupees	1,33,65,832	2 1
To Bombay — — — —	—	1,02,04,175	0 1
	Total — Ct Rs	2,35,70,007	2 2

Fort William,
Accountant General's Office,
the 7th December, 1782.

COPY of Repreſentations from Fyzoola Cawn, Mozuffer Jung, and the Nabob Vizier, relative to the Conduct of Warren Haſtings, Eſquire, late Governor General of Bengal.

EXTRACT of letter from Mozuffer Jung, Nawab of Furruckabad, to Governor General Macpherſon :—Received the 13th March, 1785.

AT this time, that by the bleſſing of God you are ſeated on the throne of Government for the adminiſtration of the Company's affairs, in the room of Nawab Governor General Jelladut Jung, great confidence and ſatisfaction are come into my heart, that you alſo, out of regard to my dependence on the Engliſh gentlemen, will, like the Nawab Governor General, be favourable towards me and my concerns.

EXTRACT of letter from the Nawab Fize Ulla Khan, to Governor General Macpherſon Received the 13th March, 1785.

Poſtſcript.

From the beginning, the favours and protection ſhewn me by Mr. Haſtings, Governor General, are well known to you, and there is no neceſſity for repetion; and in conformity thereto, I alſo, from my fidelity and ſincerity, had no connection with any other door or aſylum but that of the ſaid Governor General, and was in every inſtance obedient to his commands. Your Highneſs, who are now ſeated in his place, may reſt aſſured, that I ſhall have no connection with any other perſon, from this reaſon, that one true friend is better than a hundred worlds of friends. The character of the people of this world are known to you, and you ſhould, therefore, ſhew me the ſame favour as the ſaid Governor General, and not pay attention to what other perſons may ſay or write reſpecting me; and whatever may be your orders, ſend them without the inteference of others. To the utmoſt of my power there ſhall be no neglect in the execution of them. Keep this point at all times in the view of your all-ſeeing eye.

From the Nabob Vizier to the exalted Directors of the Engliſh Company, Health.

After expreſſing my deſire of a happy interview, it is repreſented to your wiſdom, that for the purpoſe of ſtrengthening and confirming our mutual attachment and union, in which conſiſts the great advantage both of my government and of that of the Company, which in all reſpects are one and the ſame, and the ſource and foundation of the exalted Engliſh gentlemen, power, and authority being in England, I have, on theſe conſiderations, for a long time wiſhed, and continue ſtill to wiſh, that the communications between me and thoſe exalted perſons might be carried on without the intervention of others. Twenty years ago my late honoured father began the connexion and friendſhip and alliance with the exalted Engliſh rulers; and after their firſt eſtabliſhment was conſtantly intent on the confirmation and increaſe thereof, and maintained them unſhaken to the laſt moment of his life. On his death, as I ſucceeded by inheritance to his Muſnud and authority, ſo the friendſhip and connexion which ſubſiſted between him, my late honoured father, and the exalted Engliſh rulers, have I preſerved and even increaſed. To this inſtant, by the divine grace, am I ſteady and firm in that connexion, and ſo will I continue: The exalted rulers alſo, on their part, have performed the duties of attachment and regard, ſince the full eſtabliſhment of my authority and power has proceeded from the pure advice and moſt friendly intimations of the Nabob, my true friend, the beſtower of benefits on his brethren, Ameer-ul-Memálick Ummad-o-Doulah, Governor General Mr. Haſtings, Jeladut Jung, who is my ſincereſt friend in ſympathy and attachment, with the conſent of the Gentlemen of the Council at Calcutta. But ſtill at ſundry times, by reaſon of undue repreſentations, and the ill-founded opinions of perſons of no rank, ſome matters have ariſen from the Gentlemen of the Council at Calcutta, contrary to the cuſtoms of this country, and ſuch as never exiſted from the beginning of the alliance with my late honoured father to the cloſe of his life, and theſe deviations have been a cauſe of uneaſineſs to my mind, of degradation to my dignity, and of loſs to my country; which loſs in fact will, in conſequence of our cloſe and ſtrict connexion, be a loſs (and is one) to the Company's Government. As I had frequently laid open, to the Gentlemen at Calcutta, complaints of my ſituation, and explanations of the diſtreſſes of my kingdom, on hearing thereof the Nabob, my friend Governor General Mr. Haſtings, Jeladut Jung, took the trouble and fatigue of a journey to pay me a viſit at Lucknow; and from that interview the principles of our union were ſtrongly confirmed, and the foundations of our attachment were corroborated; and a new plan, replete with advantages for the Company's Government and my own, was eſtabliſhed, to the entire ſatisfaction of both parties. The ſeveral particulars from the beginning of our connexion and alliance, and the various deviations of the gentlemen, on the advice of men of weak opinions, by which I have ſuffered, will have been clearly expoſed to your wiſdom in different letters of the Nabob, my friend the Governor General Mr. Haſtings, Jeladut Jung, nor is there now any neceſſity to repeat them. From the propriety and ſolidity of the plan now eſtabliſhed, will be derived the means of cementing and perpetuating our alliance and friendſhip for ever; as there is not, nor ever has been, on my part, the leaſt failure, in any manner whatſoever, in the principles of union and agreement, and as my wiſh in purity and ſincerity of heart, and my ſtrongeſt intentions in truth and good faith, are, that the chain of unity and accord between us may laſt for ever, without accident or decay. To demonſtrate my cordial deſire, and to add ſtrength to this foundation, I have deputed to the ſervice of thoſe exalted gentlemen, Mr. Halhed, who is well informed of the affairs of this country, and on whoſe fidelity I can rely, in the manner of an agent, and have given him this letter under my own ſeal, as a proof and certificate.

And my hope in thoſe exalted gentlemen is this, that they would conſider the words of that gentleman as words proceeding from my own mouth, and that they would place full reliance and confidence on whatever he ſhall repreſent, and underſtand the declarations of that gentleman as my requeſt.

Sincere friendſhip requires, that whatever order or orders, having relation to the ſituation of me, your friend, or of my kingdom, may be iſſued from you to the Gentlemen at Calcutta, may not be carried to effect without the knowledge of that gentleman; and that whatever plan may be digeſted in England, with regard to this kingdom, and it ſhall be reſolved to ſend orders, in conſequence, to Calcutta, copy thereof may be firſt communicated to that gentleman, that, before the diſpatch of the order, he may have an opportunity to lay before you his ideas with reſpect to its convenience and utility to me and my affairs.

I hope, from your kindneſs and favour, that the plan, which has been now digeſted by the Nabob, my friend, the Governor General Mr. Haſtings, Jeladut Jung, and which has been carried into execution with my entire ſatisfaction, may meet the approbation of thoſe exalted gentlemen, and be continued in perpetuity; and it is not adviſeable to ſend any one gentleman to be reſident here; but that I your friend may conduct my own meaſures, and enjoy my own authority, in my own kingdom. I am anxious to be gladdened with your friendly letters, as correſpondence is eſteemed half an interview. May your days paſs as you deſire!

L. | Vizier ul Memalik, Aſoph-o'-Dowlah, Behadur Aſoph Jah. | S.

Vizier's private Seal.

Humdet ul Moolk, Modar ul Meham, Vizier ul Memalik, Yetemad-o-Dowlah, Aſoph Jah, Berhan-ul-Moolk, Aboo-l, Meiſoor Khan, Sufder Jung, Sujah-ul Moolk, Shujah-o'-Dowlah, Yechee Khan, Aſoph-o-Dowlah, Behadur, Herber Jung, Yar Ofadar, Sepah Salar, Reſtem-i-Hind, the devoted ſervant of his Majeſty Shah Aulum, the warrior for the faith.

The Vizier's public Seal.

AN

AN ACCOUNT OF THE

AMOUNT of the Money received by the Government of Bengal, from the Nabob Vizier of Oude, from 1st September, 1773, to the Date of the latest Advices from Bengal;

SPECIFYING

What Sums have been expended for the Pay of Troops, &c. serving in Oude; what Remittances have been made in Cash or Bills to Troops upon Foreign Service; and what Remittances to Calcutta, Bombay, or Surat, or any other Place, from the Dominions of the Nabob Vizier.

September to September.	Receipts from the Vizier.	Advance for Pay, &c. of the Company's Troops serving in Oude.	Advance for the Vizier's Troops	Advances and Remittances to Troops on Foreign Service.	Remittances to Calcutta.	Remittances to Bombay or Surat	Total Disbursements.
	Fyzab. Sa. Rs.	Fyzab. Sa. Rs.	Fyzab. Sa. Rs.	Fyzab. Sa. Rs.	Fyzab. Sa. Rs.	Fyzab. Sa. Rs.	
1773-1774 -	—	—	—	—	11,45,900	—	
1774-1775 -	1,35,05,186	53,94,668	—	—	37,68,540	—	1,19,47,008
1775-1776 -	—	—	—	—	16,37,900	—	
1776-1777 -	30,13,683	18,24,248	—	—	9,51,498	—	27,75,746
1777-1778 -	1,04,36,966	34,66,368	6,01,032	10,07,147	30,16,313	—	80,90,860
1778-1779 -	85,54,290	37,56,529	13,62,269	41,631	27,84,150	—	79,44,579
1779-1780 -	67,74,206	35,21,026	17,04,204	6,51,100	—	—	58,76,330
1780-1781 -	75,77,948	45,59,708	12,36,617	4,34,488	5,00,000	—	67,30,813
1781-1782 -	1,37,96,228	24,13,232	11,96,139	9,22,765	56,04,840	—	1,01,36,976
1782-1783 -	80,66,867	26,63,650	—	6,58,828	24,83,469	—	58,05,947
1783-1784 -	83,89,357	37,31,686	1,25,000	4,58,523	16,02,105	5,20,000	64,37,314
1784-1785 -	84,14,000	44,50,698	2,78,640	—	21,41,605	10,55,000	79,25,989
1785-1786 -	37,50,000	34,29,214	36,303	—	—	—	34,65,517
Fyzab. Sa. Rs.	9,22,78,731	3,92,11,027	65,40,204	41,74,482	2,56,36,366	15,75,000	7,71,37,079

N. B. The Sums paid on Account the Vizier's Army Debts, the Loss by Exchange, Money repaid the Shroffs, Rohilla Stipends, and the Expences of the Residency, &c. account for the apparent Difference between the Receipts and Disbursements above stated.

East India House,
24th April, 1787.

WM. WRIGHT,
Auditor of Indian Accounts.

An ACCOUNT

OF THE

Amount of Receipts from Benares, from 1ſt September 1773, to the Date of the lateſt Advices from Bengal; ſpecifying what Sums have been expended for the Pay of Troops, &c. ſerving there; what Remittances have been made in Caſh or Bills to Troops upon Foreign Service; what Remittances to Calcutta, Bombay, Surat, or any other Place.

	Receipts for Benares Tribute.	Advanced for Pay of Troops, &c. ſerving there.	Advanced for Troops ſerving in Owde.	Stipend of Saudit Ally.	Advanced for Troops on Foreign Service.	Bills remitted to Madras.	Bills remitted to Surat.	Bills remitted to Calcutta.	Expence of the Reſidency of Benares.	Bills remitted to the Provincial Council at Patna.	Total.
1773-4 —											
1774-5 —											
1775-6 —	7,97,568	—	—	—	—	—	—	7,97,568	—	—	7,97,568
1776-7 —	31,99,303	—	—	—	—	—	—	31,99,303	—	—	31,99,303
1777-8 —	26,32,705	—	—	—	—	—	—	26,32,705	—	—	26,32,705
1778-9 —	31,66,935	—	—	—	—	—	—	31,66,935	—	—	31,66,935
1779-80 —	35,44,925	—	—	1,35,291	1,06,068	—	—	26,44,150	—	5,58,807	34,44,316
1780-1 —	31,18,390	—	—	2,96,002	11,89,173	—	—	15,24,703	—	—	30,09,878
1781-2 —	22,31,426	2,77,107	4,32,932	3,08,503	—	—	5,67,180	3,78,050	71,512	—	20,35 284
1782-3 —	37,75,081	10,35,841	13,90,957	3,24,275	—	—	—	12,18,327	1,82,647	3,30,433	44,82,840
1783-4 —	43,69,025	6,21,444	6,62,956	3,16,389	4,77,320	2,61,771	—	18,43,215	1,96,359	—	43,79,454
Current Rupees	2,68,35,358	19,34,392	24,86,845	13,80,460	17,72,561	2,61,771	5,67,180	1,74,04,956	4,50,518	8,89,240	2,71,47,923

N. B. The apparent exceſs in the expenditure is owing to a payment made by the Governor General to the Reſident, when at Benares.

East India Houſe,
25th April 1787.

WM. WRIGHT,
Auditor of Indian Accounts.

COPIES

COPIES of all Letters which have paſſed between the Court of Directors and Warren Haſtings, Eſquire, late Governor General of Bengal, relative to his Correſpondence with Major Palmer and Major Davy, and other Correſpondence, wholly or in Part withheld from the Company's Records.

To Warren Haſtings, Eſquire.

Sir,

I Am ordered by the Court of Directors of the Eaſt India Company, to deſire that you will lay before them the whole of the correſpondence, or authentic copies thereof, which paſſed between you and the undermentioned perſons, in your official capacity of Governor General of Bengal, or ſuch parts thereof as are not already upon the Company's records—

The Nabob of Oude:
Hyder Beg Khân:
Alli Ibrahim Khân:
Major Palmer:
Major Davy:
Major Browne:
Mr. Bird:
Mr. David Anderſon:
Lieutenant Anderſon:
Mr. Markham:
Mr. Middleton:
Sir Elijah Impey.

I am,

Sir,

Your moſt obedient

Humble Servant,

(Signed) THOMAS MORTON,
Secry.

East India Houſe,
the 21ſt March, 1787.

To the Honourable Court of Directors of the Honourable United Company of Merchants trading to the Eaſt Indies.

St. James's Place, 23d March, 1787.

Honourable Sirs,

I have received a letter from your Secretary, Mr. Morton, requiring me by your order to lay before you the whole of the correſpondence, or authentic copies thereof, which paſſed between

tween me and ſundry perſons, whoſe names were underwritten, in my official capacity of Governor General of Bengal, or ſuch parts thereof as are not already upon the Company's records.

I am not ſenſible that any part of my official correſpondence, which either the ſtanding orders of the Company, the cuſtom of the ſervice, or the nature of the ſubjects comprized in it, has rendered it a neceſſary duty to inſert on the records of the Company, have been withheld from them.

For ſuch parts of my correſpondence with the Nabob of Oude, Hyder Beg Cawn, and Allee Ibrahim Cawn, as may anſwer that deſcription, I have written to Captain Jonathan Scott, who acted, during the year 1784, and part of the year 1783, as my Perſian interpreter; and if it ſhall appear that any ſuch are in his poſſeſſion, I will on the receipt of them deliver them according to your commands. I myſelf have none.

For the other names, I have little remaining of my correſpondence with the Gentlemen to whom they appertain; none, I can venture to ſay, which was of an official nature, as explained above, and not entered on your records; with Sir Elijah Impey, and Mr. Bird, I never had, nor could have any official correſpondence. Major Palmer and Major Davy held no offices which obliged me to be the channel of communicating any acts of theirs, either to the Council, or to your honourable Court; nor were the other Gentlemen mentioned in your Secretary's liſt ever ſubjected to my ſeparate authority, unleſs on ſpecial occaſions; ſuch, for inſtance, as the two periods in which the urgency of your affairs called me to the diſtant provinces in the years 1781 and 1784; and of the tranſactions of thoſe periods your Honourable Court is in full poſſeſſion of the whole detail, and of my whole correſpondence. Major Browne is indeed a more particular exception, as he received with his appointment orders to correſpond with me alone; and the whole of my correſpondence with him was at times laid before the Board, though of a conſiderable part of it the ſubſtance only was recorded.

I have the honour to be,

With great reſpect,

Honourable Sirs,

Your moſt obedient and

Moſt humble Servant,

WARREN HASTINGS.

Sir,

I am ordered by the Court of Directors of the Eaſt India Company to deſire that you will lay before them the whole of the correſpondence, or authentic copies thereof, which paſſed between you and Warren Haſtings, Eſquire, in your official capacity, as

(1.) Reſident at the Court of the Vizier:

(2.) Reſident at Benares:

(3.) Reſident at the Court of Madajee Scindia:

(4.) Mr. Haſtings's Agent at Delhi:

or ſuch parts thereof as are not already upon the Company's records.

I am,

Sir,

Your moſt obedient

Humble ſervant,

East India Houſe,
21ſt March 1787.

(Signed) THOMAS MORTON,
Secretary.

(1.) Nath. Middleton.
(2.) W. Markham.
(3.) David Anderſon.
(4.) Major Browne.

To Thomas Morton, Eſquire, Secretary to the Honourable the Court of Directors.

Sir,

I have had the honour to receive your letter of the 21ſt inſtant, ſignifying the commands of the Honourable the Court of Directors, that I ſhould lay before them the whole of the correſpondence, or authentic copies thereof, which paſſed between Warren Haſtings, Eſquire, and myſelf, in my official capacity, as Reſident at the Court of the Vizier, or ſuch parts thereof, as are not already on the Company's records.

In reply to this requiſition, I beg leave reſpectfully to inform the Honourable Court of Directors, that all my correſpondence, in my official capacity, with Mr. Haſtings, the Council General, and others connected with my department at Oude, of which I happened to poſſeſs any copy, was, by an order of the Honourable the Houſe of Commons, ſubmitted to the inſpection of the Committee appointed for enquiry into the charges againſt Mr. Haſtings, in whoſe cuſtody it hath hitherto remained; but whenever it may be returned to me I ſhall moſt chearfully furniſh copy of the whole, or any part thereof, which may not be found on the Company's records, being on this, and every other occcaſion, ready to yield a prompt obedience to the commands of the Honourable Court, and moſt anxiouſly deſirous of affording them every information I am capable of.

I have the honour to be,

With reſpect,

Sir,

Your moſt obedient,

Humble ſervant,

Harley Street,
23d March, 1787.

NATHL. MIDDLETON.

Sir,

Sir,

Be pleaſed to acquaint the Honourable the Court of Directors, that, according to the eſtabliſhed rules of the ſervice, I delivered all letters received in my official capacity to my ſucceſſor, on my recall from Benares, with the book in which was entered the copies of the Reſident's correſpondence.

I am,

Sir,

Your moſt obedient,

Humble Servant,

South Audley Street,
March 23d 1787.

WM MARKHAM.

Sir,

I have had the honour to receive your letter of the 21ſt inſtant, communicating to me the order of the Honourable the Court of Directors to lay before them the whole of the correſpondence, or authentic copies thereof, which paſſed between Warren Haſtings, Eſquire, and myſelf, in my official capacity, as Reſident at the Court of Mahajee Scindia, or ſuch parts thereof as are not already upon record. It is my wiſh to obey, to the utmoſt of my power, the orders of the Honourable Court; but as my correſpondence was very voluminous, and the copies kept by me are interſperſed in books containing other extraneous letters and papers, it will neceſſarily require a very long time before the whole can be ſelected and copied. To ſave therefore as much time as poſſible, I beg leave to ſuggeſt to you the propriety of my furniſhing you with a liſt of all the correſpondence in my poſſeſſion, in order that you may compare it with the letters and papers which are already on the Company's records; and on your pointing out ſuch as are deficient, I ſhall get them tranſcribed, and ſhall ſend them to you as expeditiously as poſſible.

I have the honour to be,

With the greateſt reſpect,

Sir,

Your moſt obedient,

Humble ſervant,

York Street, St. James's,
23d March, 1787.

D. ANDERSON.

Thos Morton, Eſquire,
Secretary.

Sir,

Your letter of the 23d inſtant has been laid before the Court of Directors of the Eaſt India Company, who have directed me to deſire you will be pleaſed to furniſh them with a liſt of all the

the correſpondence in your poſſeſſion, that it may be compared with the letters and papers which are entered upon the Company's records.

I am, with reſpect,

Sir,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

East India Houſe,
24th March, 1787.

(Signed) THOMAS MORTON.
Secretary.

David Anderſon, Eſquire.

To the Honourable the Court of Directors for the Affairs of the Honourable United East India Company.

Honourable Sirs,

I have received through your Secretary your commands of the 21ſt inſtant, and beg leave to inform you, in reply, that I delivered to the Supreme Council in Bengal copies of all the correſpondence between Warren Haſtings, Eſquire, and myſelf, during the time of my officiating as your Miniſter at the Court of Dehli, containing 129 letters; and accompanied by an appendix of 76 papers, moſtly tranſlations from the Perſian language.—Theſe papers were delivered to the Supreme Council the 6th of October, 1785, and with them a letter of that date, addreſſed to your Honourable Court.

There is however one paper which did not accompany that collection, from an opinion that it would be ſuperfluous, as it was no more than an abſtracted repetition of matters diſcuſſed at large in the correſpondence, deſigned to convey an idea of the character and power of Scindia, at the time of Mr. Haſtings leaving India.—This paper I ſhall now prepare, and deliver to your Honourable Court, conformably to your orders.

With the greateſt reſpect,

I am,

Honourable Sirs,

Your moſt obedient

Humble ſervant,

Harley Street,
March 24, 1787.

JAMES BROWNE.

The

The Honourable Court of Directors for the Affairs of the Honourable United Eaſt India Company.

Honourable Sirs,

I have now the honour to encloſe you the paper mentioned in my addreſs of the 24th ultimo, and to ſubſcribe myſelf,

With the higheſt reſpect,

Honourable Sirs,

Your moſt obedient

Humble ſervant,

Harley Street,
April 2d 1787.

JAMES BROWNE.

St. James's Place, 3d April, 1787.

Honourable Sirs,

Captain Jonathan Scott having, in conſequence of my application to him, brought to town all the papers of my correſpondence with the perſons mentioned in the letter lately written to me by your Secretary, and having furniſhed me with two liſts of the ſame, I herewith tranſmit them both for your inſpection.—If, from a compariſon of theſe with your own records, it ſhall appear that any letters of either liſt are not inſerted in the official copies of the correſpondence, and you will be pleaſed to ſignify to me thoſe which are wanting, I will requeſt of Captain Scott that he will furniſh me with the ſame, that is to ſay, with tranſlations of the letters which were addreſſed to me, and with tranſlations, or copies of my drafts, of the letters which were written by me to the perſons in queſtion: or he will wait upon your Honourable Court, if you ſhall prefer that mode, and carry with him the original letter, with the books containing the copies or drafts of mine.

I have the honour to be,

With reſpect,

Honourable Sirs,

Your moſt obedient and

Moſt humble ſervant,

WARREN HASTINGS.

To the Honourable Court
of Directors, &c. &c. &c.

LETTERS

LETTERS from the Nabob Vizier.

N°. 1. Complains of Mr. Briſtow's confining Ein ud Dien.

2. Requeſts Mr. Briſtow's recall, and Major Palmer's appointment.

3. Complains of Mr. Briſtow's ill-treating the Aumils.

4. Thanks Mr. Haſtings for Mr. Briſtow's recall.

5. Invites Mr. Haſtings to Lucknow.

6. Requeſts Mr. Haſtings to order Mr. Briſtow to ſettle his accounts.

7. Informs that merchants agree to ſecure the Company's debt.

8. Complains of Iſmael Beg's leaving Lucknow without leave.

9. Requeſts Mr. Haſtings to accept ſome Perſian fruits.

10. Complains of Iſmael Beg's leaving Lucknow.

11. Deſires to entertain the Company's diſcharged regiments.

12. Refuſes his brother's requeſt to ſee his mother.

13. Informs that Mr. Briſtow did not conſult him about ſtationing the Candahar cavalry at Cawnpore and Futtyghur.

14. Deſires Dr. Blaine may ſucceed Mr. Thomas at Lucknow.

15. Deſires the reduction of part of Saadit Ali's ſtipend.

16. Requeſts hawks and other birds.

17. Expreſſes thanks for Mr. Haſtings's conduct at Lucknow.

18. Congratulates Mr. Haſtings on his arrival at Calcutta.

19. Congratulates Mr. Haſtings on favourable news from Europe.

20. Informs of his being ill.

21. Informs of his recovery.

22. Expreſſes his agreement with the Prince.

23. Contains news from Dehli.

24. News from Dehli.

25. News from Dehli.

26. Expreſſes his agreement with the Prince.

27. Informs he has requeſted Fyzoola Cawn to ſend a confidential perſon and troops to the Prince.

28. Expreſſes ſome doubts of Scindia's friendſhip.

29. Informs he is going to Barech with the Prince.

30. Re-

30. Requeſts Mr. Haſtings will not leave India.

LETTERS from Hyder Reg.

No. 1. Concerning exchange of rupees, which Mr. Briſtow had rated too high.

2. Thanks Mr. Haſtings for a khelaut given to Hoſsn R. Khan.

3. Congratulates Mr. Haſtings upon his arrival at Calcutta.

4. Congratulates Mr. H. on his arrival at Calcutta.

5. Congratulates on favourable news from Europe.

6. Is glad to hear Mr. H's return to Europe is not fixed.

7. Complimentary wiſhes for health.

8. Informs that Burelly Rice will be ſent to the Prince.

9. Requeſts Mr. H. will not return to Europe.

10. Requeſts Mr. H. will not go to Europe.

11. Begs he will defer his departure.

12. To the ſame effect as No. 11.

13. To the ſame effect as the laſt.

Two letters from Ali Ibrahim Khan, mentioning the arrival of Lewajee Eetul, of Benares, and the ſatisfaction of the inhabitants with his proceedings.

LETTERS from Mr. Haſtings to Nabob Vizier.

No. 1. ✓Informs him, that he has referred his requeſt, to entertain the Company's diſcharged battalions, to the Council.

2. Informs him, that the Prince deſires to viſit Bareech.

3. Deſires he will appoint whom he pleaſes to the battalions he means to give the Prince as an eſcort.

4. ✓Informs him, that he has ordered Major Palmer to communicate ſome points to him.

5. ✓Informs him, that the Prince wiſhes he would requeſt Fyzoola Khân to ſend him ſome troops under a confidential perſon, or one of his ſons.

6. ✓Informs him, that he is obliged to return ſuddenly to Calcutta, owing to Mr. Wheler's death.

7. ✓Deſires him to defer his operations againſt the fort of Saſſnee for the preſent.

8. Deſires he will make what agreement he chuſes with the Prince.

9. Deſires he will act as he chuſes, in reſpect to Captain Frith's commanding battalions in his ſervice.

10. ✓Deſires he will excuſe himſelf from going to Delhy.

11. ✓Condolance on his illneſs.

12. ✓ Congratulations on recovery.

Only 1. ✓ Three letters, informing him of his going to Europe.

LETTERS from Mr. Haſtings to Hyder Beg.

No. 1. Regulates the exchange of money iſſued to the troops.

2. Expreſſes his pleaſure at the Vizier's behaviour to the Prince.

3. ✓ Is glad to hear that the ſettlement of the Vizier's country is likely to anſwer.

4. Deſires the exchange on money, agreed at Lucknow, may be continued.

Only 1. ✓ Three letters, informing of his departure for Europe.

A letter to Ali Ibrahim Khân, to the ſame effect.

To Warren Haſtings, Eſquire.

Sir,

I have it in command from the Court of Directors of the Eaſt India Company, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yeſterday's date, with the two liſts herewith returned, and to requeſt you will furniſh them as ſoon as poſſible with copies of ſuch letters in the ſaid liſts, as are not marked thus, ✓ ; alſo with the dates of the whole,

I am, Sir,

Your moſt obedient

humble ſervant,

(Signed) THOMAS MORTON,

Secy.

East India Houſe,
4th April, 1787.

Sir, India Houſe, 14th April, 1787.

I have received, by the poſt this morning, from my brother Captain Jonathan Scott, the accompanying tranſlations of Perſian letters, which, together with his letter to me, and the liſts, I have now the honour to encloſe to you.

Mr. Haſtings is in the country, and does not return to town, I believe, until Tueſday or Wedneſday; but as I knew it was his earneſt deſire to tranſmit theſe tranſlations to the Honourable the Court of Directors the moment he received them, and as they came under cover to me, I have taken upon myſelf to deliver them, without any delay, to you.

My brother came from Shrewſbury about a fortnight ago, by the deſire of Mr. Haſtings; but the illneſs of a near relation obliged him to return ſuddenly, or the letters would have been ready earlier.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your moſt obedient and faithful ſervant,

(Signed) JOHN SCOTT.

J. Motteux, Eſquire,
Chairman to the Honourable the Court of Directors.

COPY

COPY of Paragraphs from the Government of Bengal, and from the Court of Directors to Bengal, as relate to Mr. Larkins, the Accountant General in Bengal.

EXTRACT of Court's General Letter to Bengal, dated 15th December 1775.

Para. 22. WE obſerve by your Letter of the 24th February laſt, that you had appointed Mr. William Larkins to fill the poſt of ſub-accountant, upon Mr. Livius's declining it; which poſt, by our letter of the 12th April following, we had directed to be occupied by Mr. Leonard Collings. Although we are ſenſible of the abilities of Mr. Larkins for the office of Sub-Accountant, yet as we cannot conſent to any perſon being appointed thereto, but upon the expreſs terms on which Mr. Collings was appointed: and as we ſuppoſe that Mr. Larkins will not chooſe to hold that office upon thoſe terms; it is therefore our pleaſure, if he ſhould refuſe to continue in it, that you in ſuch caſe appoint Mr. Collings your Sub-Accountant, immediately upon receipt hereof; but if Mr. Larkins ſhould think proper to remain therein, we then direct that Mr. Collings do ſucceed to the office of Sub-Accountant upon the firſt vacancy.

30. Should Mr. Larkins decline continuing in the office of Deputy Accountant, on the terms and regulations which we have adopted for that office, and rather wiſh to preſerve his riſing in the ſervice, in that caſe we recommend him to you for ſuch an appointment as his merit and ſervices ſhall deſerve.

EXTRACT of General Letter from Bengal, dated 20th March 1776.

Par. 91. We were on the point of nominating the Sub-Accountant, Mr. William Larkins, to the vacancy occaſioned by the reſignation of Mr. Darell, when we received your orders of the 12th April 1775, containing the appointment of Mr. Collings to this ſucceſſion, immediately after Mr. Livius. This gentleman having, as we before informed you, declined the office of Sub-Accountant, Mr. Collings of courſe came directly into Mr. Darell's place and has taken charge accordingly. Mr. Larkins, feeling a diſappointment at being deprived of an office which, from the ſenſe we entertain of his induſtry and abilities, we had intended to grant him, has addreſſed us on the ſubject; we beg leave to point out his letter for your obſervation, and to repeat the recommendation we gave of his merits in our general letter of the 16th May laſt. He expreſſes a readineſs to continue to act with the ſame aſſiduity, under the preſent arrangement, that he has hitherto ſhewn in the Accountant's office.

EXTRACT of Court's Letter to Bengal, dated 24th December 1776.

Par. 18. Your general letter, lately received by the Talbot, informs us of your having, agreeably to our order of the 12th April 1775, appointed Mr. Leonard Collings to the poſt of Accountant at your preſidency, on its being vacated by Mr. Darell's reſignation; and you alſo tell us, that Mr. Larkins feels a diſappointment at being deprived of an office, you, from his induſtry and abilities, intended to grant him. Now, as we conſider the ſentiments of Mr. Larkins upon this occaſion, as expreſſed in his letter, entered on your conſultation 11th March, deſerving our favourable notice, as we think that the poſt of Accountantant ſhould be filled by a perſon who has regularly been initated in the duty of that office, by ſerving as Sub-Accountant, you are hereby directed, upon the receipt hereof, to ſignify to Mr. Larkins that he has the option of being appointed Accountant, according to the permiſſion granted him in our letter of the 15th December

ber laſt (par. 22 and 30) and upon the expreſs terms upon which the office af Accountant was originally inſtituted, namely, *that he ſhould continue fixt as youngeſt Senior Merchant, without riſing to a ſuperior rank in our Service.*

EXTRACT of General Letter from Bengal, dated 14th February 1782.

Par. 8. We have received a letter from Mr. Larkins, our Accountant General, ſoliciting to be replaced in his former rank on the liſt of Company's ſervants next below Mr. Thomas Calvert, and immediately above Mr. John Taylor, as the Gentleman on the liſt of that ſeaſon, by riſing to the rank of ſenior merchants, will ſupercede Mr. Larkins, who, by your expreſs appointment, was fixed to remain the youngeſt ſenior merchant on this eſtabliſhment.

9. This appointment, when granted to Mr. Larkins, was intended to give him precedence on the liſt of Company's ſervants, but as it can no longer be attended with that effect, it would be an injury and degradation to him to continue it, as his aſſiſtance in time would riſe to a rank above him. Mr. Larkins's merits entitle him to every indulgence which can be ſhewn him; we therefore venture with confidence to recommend his letter, with our minutes upon it, which make a number in the packet, to your peruſal, and his caſe to your favourable conſideration.

EXTRACT of Court's Letter to Bengal, dated 28th Auguſt 1782.

Par. 33. We yield with pleaſure to your recommendation in favour of Mr. Larkins, your Accountant General, as expreſſed in the 8th and 9th paragraphs of your general letter of the 14th February 1782; and hereby direct, that he do take rank in our ſervice, according to his original ſtanding next below Mr. Thomas Calvert, Mr. Larkins merit certaintly entitle him to this mark of our favour, and which he is to conſider as a token of our approbation of his conduct: But we muſt at the ſame time direct, that agreeable to the terms of his own letter, a copy whereof we received by the Nancy, Mr. Larkins do on no account quit his preſent poſts, in which he is ſo eminently uſeful, without our permiſſion.

EXTRACT of Court's Letter to Bengal, dated 8th July 1785.

Par. 42. On the whole, the attention ſhewed by the Accountant General, in framing theſe ſtatements, merits our warmeſt approbation; and we truſt he will continue the ſame exertions in this as in every other matter under his department.

EXTRACT of General Letter from Bengal, dated 15th March 1784.

Par. 12. The infirm State of health under which Mr. Larkins, your Accountant General, ſtill labours, occaſioned by his unremitted attention to the duties of a moſt laborious office, and the conſequent neceſſity of ſecuring the remittance of his property to Europe, have induced us to comply with a requeſt made by that Gentleman, that the amount due on bonds, which he had taken for ſums received on account of the commiſſion granted to him on the 30th March 1781, might be transferred to the remittance loan, adverti ſed on the 30th October 1783; for which bills are not to be granted till the 1ſt February 1785.

13. You have been informed, by our repeated teſtimonies, of the ſervices rendered the Company by Mr. Larkins, and we hope the circumſtances mentioned in his letter will make him appear to you

you highly deſerving of this indulgence, and induce you to ſignify your approval, by accepting the bills which will be drawn on you in his favour. We beg leave to refer you to the minutes entered individually by the Members of our Board on this occaſion.

EXTRACT of General Letter from Bengal, dated 21ſt Auguſt 1786.

Par. 20. In teſtimony of the ſucceſs of our arrangements, for which we hold the Company much indebted to the labour and fidelity of your public ſecretaries, and very particularly to the induſtry and exertions of your Accountant General, we have now the pleaſure to inform you, that the correct and impartial regulations of your Treaſury have greatly tended to revive your credit in this ſettlement.

EXTRACT of Letter from the Right Honourable the Preſident to the Secret Committee of the Court of Directors, dated 16th November 1786.

Par. 44. This plan was ſuggeſted by the Accountant General Mr. Larkins, and, from his profeſſional abilities, zeal for the public ſervice, and acknowledged integrity, merits the moſt deliberate and candid diſcuſſion.

COPY of Revenue Letters from Bengal, received by the Swallow.

To the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the Eaſt Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

Par. 1ſt. WE had the honour of addreſſing you laſt from this department, under date the 21ſt of Auguſt, per Severn and Ranger Packets; on board the latter were tranſmitted our proceedings up to end of July, with the book of the reduced Revenue Eſtabliſhment, as noticed in the 7th paragraph of our addreſs of the date above-mentioned.

2d. In this letter, our intention is to lay before you the principal further proceedings of the adminiſtration of your Government, from the 1ſt Auguſt, the date to which our conſultations have already been tranſmitted, till the period of the arrival of the Right Honourable Charles Earl Cornwallis, on the 12th September laſt, to take upon him the office of Governor General.

On the 3d of Auguſt we took into conſideration the proceedings and the ſeveral letters that had from time to time been addreſſed to us, by the Members of the Commiſſion appointed to ſit at Chitpore, to inveſtigate the grounds of the ſuſpicion entertained of Gholaum Aſhruff Burkuttullah, and others, having committed various forgeries on the Company's Treaſuries, as more fully explained in the Proceedings and Minute of the Governor General, in the Fotjedarry Department, recorded in our Conſultation of the 10th of March 1785.

4th. The Governor General having, upon due conſideration of the reſult of this inveſtigation, propoſed ſundry reſolutions, as founded on the evidence received and opinions expreſſed by the Commiſſioners: and the motions thus made having been ordered to be circulated for the ſentiments of the Members of the Board, lay accordingly for conſideration, till the 4th of September, when they were paſſed, with however ſome variety of opinion, as may be ſeen by referring to the Minutes of Mr. Stables, and of the Hon. Charles Stuart, then recorded.

5th. In conſequence of this termination of the Chitpore enquiry, Gholaum Aſhruff, and the ſeveral other perſons who confeſs to have been concerned in the forgeries committed on your treaſuries, have been ſent to be regularly tried in the native Foujedarry Court at Moorſhedabad, and you will be hereafter duly adviſed of the reſult of ſuch farther proceedings as may eventually appear neceſſary, towards indemnifying the Company, in as great a degree as poſſible, for the loſs they have ſuſtained.

6th. We have directed a complete copy of the proceedings of the Chitpore commiſſion to be tranſmitted to you a number of book packet by the preſent diſpatch; and we doubt not but the peruſal thereof will afford ſatisfactory proof, that no pains have been ſpared, or attention been wanting, on the part of the Members who compoſed it, towards a faithful and juſt diſcharge of the duty committed to them.

7th. In the 3d paragraph of our letter of the 21ſt of Auguſt, we adviſed you of the inſtitution of the office of Chief Sheriſhtadar, and of the benefits which we expected to derive from it We now beg leave to refer you to the proceedings marked in the margin, for the particulars of an addreſs to us, upon the ſubject of this appointment, from Mr. James Grant, on his nomination to that office; on the receipt of which we immediately tranſmitted a copy of it to the Board of Revenue, with directions to take the ſubject thereof into conſideration as ſpeedily as poſſible, and to concert with that Gentleman ſuch regulations as might appear moſt effectual for carrying the purpoſes of it into execution. The Board of Revenue have ſince tranſmitted to us a copy of their proceedings on this ſubject, as recorded on the conſultation marked in the margin, and were, in conſequence, furniſhed on the ſame day with further and ſpecific inſtructions for carrying into effect the views of Government in the inſtitution of Mr. Grant's office, the particulars of which you will find in the record of the ſame conſultation; ſince which we have not had before us any further accounts of the progreſs that may have been made reſpecting it.

8th. Under date the 21ſt of Auguſt, Mr. Grant addreſſed to us a repreſentation, which we beg leave to point out to your attention, as recorded in our conſultation of the 4th of the preceding month of September, accompanying his bill for expences actually incurred by him in the courſe of two complete years, during which he therein declares himſelf, and profeſſes his readineſs to verify on honour, or on oath, to have expended on the whole, to the amount of Sicca rupees 45,120, which the Board, on due conſideration, deemed Mr. Grant entitled to be reimburſed in; but as two of the Members were then abſent on a deputation to receive Earl Cornwallis on his expected arrival in the river, the final reſolution on this ſubject was poſtponed till a future full meeting; ſince which no further proceedings have been held regarding it.—We ſhall now only add, on this ſubject, that Mr. Grant ſtates his application to be grounded on what he underſtood to be the Board's adoption, by their reſolution of the 19th of July, of the terms of the Governor General's Minute on the inſtitution of the Sheriſhtadar's office, in which an intimation is contained, that the expences already incurred by that Gentleman; in the proſecution of his reſearches, muſt of courſe be allowed him.

9th. Having, on the 3d Auguſt, called on the Board of Revenue for a particular account of the collections and balances for the Bengal Year 1192, as tranſmitted to you by our laſt diſpatch, we took that opportunity to deſire them to ſtate whether they had in any, and what, caſes purſued the mode directed by us at the beginning of the year (as per conſultation marked in the margin) of taking intereſt bonds for ſuch balances as could not be otherwiſe realized; in anſwer to which, they have informed us, that the clauſe ſubjecting the Zemindars to this additional engagement, had been duly inſerted in their cabooleats, and would be enforced if found ultimately neceſſary; of which we have ſignified our approbation, and deſired to be furniſhed with a report of the number and amount of the bonds that may be thus ultimately taken; although ſuch has been the general and even extraordinary ſucceſs of the laſt year's collections, as already intimated in our laſt diſpatch, that their total can, we apprehend, but prove very inconſiderable: their comparative ſmall amount hath not, however, prevented our ſending preciſe and full

inſtructions

inſtructions to the Board of Revenue, on their report of the cauſes of them; for which (as a ſubject that cannot well be abridged) we muſt beg leave to refer you to our letter to them, recorded on the proceedings of the 4th of September laſt.

10th. Having received a repreſentation from the Board of Revenue, of the ill effects produced by a diſputed boundary between the dependants of the Zemindars of Mymon Sing and Raujeſhahy, and being convinced how little adapted the formal and dilatory proceſs of the Adawlut was to the maintenance of the peace in ſuch caſes, we, under certain reſtrictions, which you will find recorded in our proceedings marked in the margin, reſtored to the revenue department the right of taking cognizance of diſputes concerning boundaries, which is indeed eſſential, in many reſpects, to the due collection of the revenue, and had, we believe, never been taken away from it till the publication of the laſt general code of regulations for the adminiſtration of juſtice, of the 5th of July, 1781: We are now happy to find, that in the ſlight deviation which we on this occaſion ventured to authorize from the exiſting regulations, we have only ſo far anticipated the general ſpirit of the commands ſince received, in your ſeparate letter of the 12th April, 1786; and it affords us ſtill a further ſatisfaction to find, that in the more important and extenſive operation of our eſtabliſhment of collectors, and the abolition of the huzzoory mehals, or collections made at the Khalſa, we have been, whilſt acting from the impulſe of our matureſt judgment, for the beſt intereſt of this branch of your concerns in this country, proceeding alſo in entire conformity to the ſentiments you then alſo appear to have entertained, though at that time unknown to us.

11th. The Board of Revenue having applied to us to be furniſhed, as ſoon as poſſible, with inſtructions relative to the ſettlement of the Province of Behar, for the Fuſſuly year 1194, beginning in September laſt, and ſuggeſted to our conſultation the expediency of a new arrangement of the collectorſhips in that province, we informed them in our anſwer (for which vide our conſultation marked in the margin) that being apprehenſive leſt the operation of any meaſure, ſuch as they had ſuggeſted, ſhould add materially to the expences of the revenue department, we wiſhed to avoid it, leaving, however, to their diſcretion, ſuch interior arrangements and diſtribution of the diſtricts, now under the charge of each collector reſpectively, as might, without any expence to Government, conduce, in any conſiderable degree, to the greater ſecurity of the collections; and for the reſt we referred them, in general, for their inſtructions in framing the new ſettlement to the exiſting laws of the Legiſlature, and to the regulations of this Government now in force, to which an intimation was added, that ſuch further inſtructions might be added as ſhould appear neceſſary, from the expected directions that might be contained in the Swallow Packet, then daily expected.

12th. Having, in the 9th paragraph of our letter of the 21ſt Auguſt, adviſed you that we had agreed to purchaſe, on behalf the Honourable Company, one hundred and fifty copies of Mr. Gladwin's compilation of an epitome of Mahommedan Law; and that gentleman having ſince informed the Board that it was not his intention to aſk any pecuniary reward for what he terms ſo trifling an offering; we think it but juſtice to adviſe you of this diſintereſted conduct on his part, which of courſe frees you from any expence on account of his publication.

13th. The above are the principal occurrences that have taken place in our revenue department during the period which this addreſs is limited to, and for other more minute particulars we muſt refer to the proceedings at large.

We are, with great reſpect,

Honourable Sirs,

Your moſt faithful

Humble ſervants,

JOHN MACPHERSON,
RICHARD SLOPER,
JOHN STABLES,
CHARLES STUART.

Fort William,
the 11th September, 1786.

To

To the Honourable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

Para. 1st. You will receive by the preſent opportunity an addreſs from this department under date the 11th September, comprizing a ſummary of the principal tranſactions of the Board, from the late diſpatch per Ranger, till the arrival of Earl Cornwallis; and we now beg leave to adviſe you of ſuch ſubſequent proceedings as have been held ſince that period.

2d. Our firſt conſultation after his Lordſhip entered upon the Government, was held on the 18th of September, when we read your ſeparate letter of the 12th of April, and directed an abſtract to be drawn up of its contents, preparatory to our paſſing ſuch orders on the different heads of it as may appear neceſſary for the due and effectual execution of your commands, the greateſt part of which muſt neceſſarily lie over for the preſent, as the advanced period of the year does not admit, with ſafety to the current collections, of proceeding immediately on ſeveral of the new arrangements therein pointed out; but you may reſt aſſured of our attention to them in every reſpect, as ſoon as the ſeaſon will admit; of which you will be duly adviſed in our future addreſſes.

3d. The broken ſet of our conſultations in this department are herewith tranſmitted, from the beginning of Auguſt to the end of October; and you will receive in the book packet by this diſpatch, the proceedings of the Board of Revenue, from the the third to the end of July laſt, with the index and appendix complete, to the ſame date.

4th. The Governor General reported to us, on the 22d of September, the death of Mr. Croftes, who filled the ſtations of Collector and Judge of the Province of Chittagong; and recommended that Mr. Shearman Bird ſhould be appointed to the offices thereby vacated, in which we acquieſced.

5th. By a reference to the proceedings of the 9th September, you will find recorded the table of prices for ſalt of 1192, or 1785-6, as ſubmitted to us by the comptroller, Mr. Vanſittart, who informed us that there was a promiſing appearance for the enſuing ſales. We cannot mention this ſubject without expreſſing our ſincere regret at the loſs which the Honourable Company and the public have ſuſtained by the much lamented death of Mr. Henry Vanſittart, which happened on the 7th October laſt, under whoſe controul and good management this important branch of your affairs has been ſo ſucceſsful, as to have attracted your own particular obſervation and notice of that gentleman's diligent and faithful ſervices.

6th. In conſequence of the vacancy in the office of Comptroller of the manufacture of ſalt, occaſioned by this event, we have, at the recommendation of the Right Honourable Earl Cornwallis, promoted Mr. Calvert, as the ſenior ſervant in the department, from the agency of Hidgellee, to the office of Comptroller; and conferred the office vacated by that gentleman's promotion, on Mr. Hewitt, as is particularized in the proceedings noted in the margin; reference to which will alſo bring under your notice an application from Mr. Henry Griffiths to ſucceed to the Comptrollerſhip, which we did not heſitate to reject, as it could not be complied with but by a general ſuperceſſion of the deputy, and of all the ſalt agents but one.

7th. At a meeting in this department on the 18th October, a minute was recorded from the Governor General, reciting, that, as the preſent very heavy diſcount on paper in circulation could only be reduced by a ſtrict adherence to our engagements with the public, and by as early a diſcharge of the oldeſt dates as the ſtate of our reſources will admit, it was incumbent on the Board to uſe every meaſure in the power of Government to effect this ſalutary purpoſe; in conſequence of which, a letter was on the ſame day tranſmitted, at his Lordſhip's recommendation, to the Preſident and Members of the Board of Revenue, deſiring them to call on the different collectors to account for the difference between the eſtimate and actual receipts, to the end of September; as by the ſtatements before the Board it appears, that only the ſum of current rupees 66,12,000 has been received from the Khalſa into the General Treaſury, inſtead of current rupees 92,50,000 expected to have been received by the 1ſt of October: And the Board of Revenue have been further enjoined to exert every endeavour to prevent ſuch a failure in the realization

realization of the expected receipts in future, and particularly to guard againſt any balances of caſh, either of revenue, or upon any other account, from remaining in the hands of any of the officers acting under their authority.

8th. Another minute delivered in by the Governor General, and which you will find recorded in the conſultation noted in the margin, propoſes that ſome method ſhould be immediately adopted, in obedience to your orders, for a more regular diſcharge of the functions preſcribed to this Government in their department of a court of appeal; in conſequence of which, we have reſolved to hold regular meetings, in this important branch of our judicial capacity, once in every ſucceeding week, from the 14th of December next, by which we doubt not to be able ſpeedily to bring up the arrears of buſineſs now depending in that department, as well as to keep it regularly up in time to come.

9th. The Board of Revenue having ſubmitted to us their proceedings on a difference that had ariſen amongſt them, concerning the ſettlement of the diſtrict or pergunnah of Petkara, in the Province of Dacca, it appeared to us to have been principally occaſioned by a degree of miſapprehenſion and inaccuracy in the correſpondence held on the ſubject; and, as it was then too late in the year to make any alteration in the ultimate orders they had iſſued on the ſubject, had we even ſeen any material ground for our interference, which however did not appear to be the caſe, we left Aſſued Ulla, one of the competitors for the leaſe of the pergunnah, in poſſeſſion for the current year, and directed the pretenſions of Mirza Jawn, his opponent, to be inveſtigated; that if he ſhall be found, on due enquiry, to be the neareſt heir to the Zemindary, he may be put into poſſeſſion on the enſuing year's ſettlement.

10th. On the receipt of a ſubſequent letter from the Board of Revenue, adviſing us of their having ordered a proviſion for Mirza Jawn's ſubſiſtence, we conſiſtently with our preceding inſtructions, informed them that we conſented to it, provided it ſhould appear, by the reſult of the enquiry which they had been ordered to make, that he was the proper heir to the Zemindary; but until this conteſted point ſhould have been aſcertained, the propoſed allowance muſt be detained in depoſit by an officer of Government.

11th. The Board of Revenue have adviſed us, that they have iſſued the neceſſary orders, in conformity to the inſtructions tranſmitted to them on the 9th of September, for the ſettlement of the Behar Province, as well as for that of thoſe parts of the Province of Bengal and Oriſſa, in which the year ends alſo in September. On this occaſion, they have thought proper to point out to our particular notice the zeal and aſſiduity of Mr. Thomas Law, the collector of rotas, in his ſucceſsful and regular realization of the revenue, as well as to notice the merits of the ſeveral other gentlemen, viz. the Collectors of the Salt Diſtricts, and the Collectors of Tirhoot, Boglepore, and Ramgur, whoſe inſtalments for the Behar, otherwiſe ſtiled the Fuſſullee and Velaytic year, have been completely realized. We have, in return, expreſſed our higheſt approbation of Mr. Law's exertions, and deſired the thanks of this Government to be given to him, and the ſeveral other gentlemen, for their ſucceſsful management of the revenue of the diſtricts ſeverally committed to their charge.

12th. We have however, been under the neceſſity of authoriſing the Board of Revenue to proceed, if they ſhall deem ſuch a meaſure ultimately requiſite, for the realization of a part of the balances in Sircar Sarun, to the ſale of ſuch parts of the lands of ſome of the defaulting renters, as may be required for that purpoſe; but as this is a meaſure to which we have at all times recourſe with reluctance, we hope the neceſſity for it will not be frequent.

13th. In our conſultation referred to in the margin, you will obſerve that we have taken up and paſſed the requiſite orders on various ſubjects; ſome of them of conſiderable importance, which had been ordered to lie for conſideration, at ſucceſſive periods, ſince the firſt of January laſt; among the reſolutions paſſed on this occaſion, is one formed on a letter from the Accountant General to the Revenue Department, that the preſent Members of the Board of Revenue ſhall continue to draw the ſame allowances as were fixed for thoſe of the late Committee of Revenue, in July 1785, and which have ſince received your approbation, as ſignified in your ſeparate letter of the 12th of April.

14. We have alſo had before us ſundry petitions, which you will find recorded, with the orders paſſed thereon, in the conſultations marked in the margin; and in conſequence of one of

these, from Rajah Daby Sing, praying that the proceedings of the commission established at Rungpore, for the investigation into the causes of the insurrection that happened there some years ago, may be decided on, we have resolved to proceed to bring this long-protracted and important trial to an issue, immediately after the present dispatch; and we hope to give you early advice of the result.

15th. An account of the balances of the Khalsa Treasury, and of the several Provincial Treasuries, including that of the Salt Office, is transmitted a number in the packet.

We are, with great respect,

Honourable Sirs,

Your most faithful

Humble servants,

CORNWALLIS,
JOHN STABLES,
CHARLES STUART.

Fort William,
the 13th November, 1786.

END OF THE SIXTH VOLUME.